



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]

### 55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the following Declaration:

#### **United Nations Millennium Declaration**

##### **I. Values and principles**

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.
6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:
  - **Freedom.** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
  - **Equality.** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
  - **Solidarity.** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
  - **Tolerance.** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
  - **Respect for nature.** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
  - **Shared responsibility.** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.
7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

## II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the

past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations<sup>1</sup> and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
- To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>2</sup>
- To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.
- To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
- To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
- To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
- To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and

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<sup>1</sup> A/55/305-S/2000/809; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fifth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 2000*, document S/2000/809.

<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.183/9.

on Their Destruction,<sup>3</sup> as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.<sup>4</sup>

10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

### **III. Development and poverty eradication**

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.
12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.
13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.
14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.
15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:
  - To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
  - To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
  - To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.
16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

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<sup>3</sup> See CD/1478.

<sup>4</sup> Amended protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B).

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action<sup>5</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.
18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.
19. We resolve further:
  - To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
  - To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
  - By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
  - To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
  - To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
  - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.
20. We also resolve:
  - To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
  - To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
  - To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
  - To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.

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<sup>5</sup> Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration,<sup>6</sup> are available to all.

#### **IV. Protecting our common environment**

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.
22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,<sup>7</sup> agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:
  - To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
  - To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
  - To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>8</sup> and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.<sup>9</sup>
  - To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
  - To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
  - To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

#### **V. Human rights, democracy and good governance**

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.
25. We resolve therefore:

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<sup>6</sup> E/2000/L.9.

<sup>7</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>8</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

<sup>9</sup> A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>10</sup>
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>11</sup>
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

#### **VI. Protecting the vulnerable**

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.
- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>12</sup> and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.<sup>13</sup>

#### **VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa**

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy.

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<sup>10</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 44/25, annex.

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

28. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

### **VIII. Strengthening the United Nations**

29. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

30. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.
- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.
- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution 49/59, annex.



- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.
  - To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
  - To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.
31. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.
  32. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

*8th plenary meeting  
8 September 2000*



# General Assembly

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## Fifty-ninth session

Agenda items 45 and 55

### Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

#### Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

## In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all

### Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. Introduction: a historic opportunity in 2005

1. Five years into the new millennium, we have it in our power to pass on to our children a brighter inheritance than that bequeathed to any previous generation. We can halve global poverty and halt the spread of major known diseases in the next 10 years. We can reduce the prevalence of violent conflict and terrorism. We can increase respect for human dignity in every land. And we can forge a set of updated international institutions to help humanity achieve these noble goals. If we act boldly — and if we act together — we can make people everywhere more secure, more prosperous and better able to enjoy their fundamental human rights.

2. All the conditions are in place for us to do so. In an era of global interdependence, the glue of common interest, if properly perceived, should bind all States together in this cause, as should the impulses of our common humanity. In an era of global abundance, our world has the resources to reduce dramatically the massive divides that persist between rich and poor, if only those resources can be unleashed in the service of all peoples. After a period of difficulty in international affairs, in the face of both new threats and old ones in new guises, there is a yearning in many quarters for a new consensus on which to base collective action. And a desire exists to make the most far-reaching reforms in the history of the United Nations so as to equip and resource it to help advance this twenty-first century agenda.

3. The year 2005 presents an opportunity to move decisively in this direction. In September, world leaders will come together in New York to review progress made since the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup> adopted by all Member States in 2000. In preparation for that summit, Member States have asked me to report comprehensively on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. I respectfully submit that report today. I annex to it a proposed agenda to be taken up, and acted upon, at the summit.

4. In preparing the present report, I have drawn on my eight years' experience as Secretary-General, on my own conscience and convictions, and on my understanding of the Charter of the United Nations whose principles and purposes it is my duty to promote. I have also drawn inspiration from two wide-ranging reviews of our global challenges — one from the 16-member High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, whom I asked to make proposals to strengthen our collective security system (see A/59/565); the other from the 250 experts who undertook the Millennium Project, which required them to produce a plan of action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

5. In the present report, I have resisted the temptation to include all areas in which progress is important or desirable. I have limited myself to items on which I believe action is both vital and achievable in the coming months. These are reforms that are within reach — reforms that are actionable if we can garner the necessary political will. With very few exceptions, this is an agenda of highest priorities for September. Many other issues will need to be advanced in other forums and on other occasions. And, of course, none of the proposals advanced here obviate the need for urgent action this year to make progress in resolving protracted conflicts that threaten regional and global stability.

## A. The challenges of a changing world

6. In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders were confident that humanity could, in the years ahead, make measurable progress towards peace, security, disarmament, human rights, democracy and good governance. They called for a global partnership for development to achieve agreed goals by 2015. They vowed to protect the vulnerable and meet the special needs of Africa. And they agreed that the United Nations needed to become more, not less, actively engaged in shaping our common future.

7. Five years later, a point-by-point report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration would, I feel, miss the larger point, namely, that new circumstances demand that we revitalize consensus on key challenges and priorities and convert that consensus into collective action.

8. Much has happened since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration to compel such an approach. Small networks of non-State actors — terrorists — have, since the horrendous attacks of 11 September 2001, made even the most powerful States feel vulnerable. At the same time, many States have begun to feel that the sheer imbalance of power in the world is a source of instability. Divisions between major powers on key issues have revealed a lack of consensus about goals and methods. Meanwhile, over 40 countries have been scarred by violent conflict. Today, the number of internally displaced people stands at roughly 25 million, nearly one third of whom are beyond the reach of United Nations assistance, in addition to the global refugee population of 11 to 12 million, and some of them have been the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

9. Many countries have been torn apart and hollowed out by violence of a different sort. HIV/AIDS, the plague of the modern world, has killed over 20 million men, women and children and the number of people infected has surged to over 40 million. The promise of the Millennium Development Goals still remains distant for many. More than one billion people still live below the extreme poverty line of one dollar per day, and 20,000 die from poverty each day. Overall global wealth has grown but is less and less evenly distributed within countries, within regions and in the world as a whole. While there has been real progress towards some of the Goals in some countries, too few Governments — from both the developed and developing world — have taken sufficient action to reach the targets by 2015. And while important work has been done on issues as diverse as migration and climate change, the scale of such long-term challenges is far greater than our collective action to date to meet them.

10. Events in recent years have also led to declining public confidence in the United Nations itself, even if for opposite reasons. For instance, both sides of the debate on the Iraq war feel let down by the Organization — for failing, as one side saw it, to enforce its own resolutions, or as the other side saw it, for not being able to prevent a premature or unnecessary war. Yet most people who criticize the United Nations do so precisely because they think the Organization is vitally important to our world. Declining confidence in the institution is matched by a growing belief in the importance of effective multilateralism.

11. I do not suggest that there has been no good news in the last five years. On the contrary, there is plenty we can point to which demonstrates that collective action can produce real results, from the impressive unity of the world after 11 September

2001 to the resolution of a number of civil conflicts, and from the appreciable increase of resources for development to the steady progress achieved in building peace and democracy in some war-torn lands. We should never despair. Our problems are not beyond our power to meet them. But we cannot be content with incomplete successes and we cannot make do with incremental responses to the shortcomings that have been revealed. Instead, we must come together to bring about far-reaching change.

## **B. Larger freedom: development, security and human rights**

12. Our guiding light must be the needs and hopes of peoples everywhere. In my Millennium Report, “We the peoples” (A/54/2000), I drew on the opening words of the Charter of the United Nations to point out that the United Nations, while it is an organization of sovereign States, exists for and must ultimately serve those needs. To do so, we must aim, as I said when first elected eight years ago, “to perfect the triangle of development, freedom and peace”.

13. The framers of the Charter saw this very clearly. In setting out to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, they understood that this enterprise could not succeed if it was narrowly based. They therefore decided to create an organization to ensure respect for fundamental human rights, establish conditions under which justice and the rule of law could be maintained, and “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom”.

14. I have named the present report “In larger freedom” to stress the enduring relevance of the Charter of the United Nations and to emphasize that its purposes must be advanced in the lives of individual men and women. The notion of larger freedom also encapsulates the idea that development, security and human rights go hand in hand.

15. Even if he can vote to choose his rulers, a young man with AIDS who cannot read or write and lives on the brink of starvation is not truly free. Equally, even if she earns enough to live, a woman who lives in the shadow of daily violence and has no say in how her country is run is not truly free. Larger freedom implies that men and women everywhere have the right to be governed by their own consent, under law, in a society where all individuals can, without discrimination or retribution, speak, worship and associate freely. They must also be free from want — so that the death sentences of extreme poverty and infectious disease are lifted from their lives — and free from fear — so that their lives and livelihoods are not ripped apart by violence and war. Indeed, all people have the right to security and to development.

16. Not only are development, security and human rights all imperative; they also reinforce each other. This relationship has only been strengthened in our era of rapid technological advances, increasing economic interdependence, globalization and dramatic geopolitical change. While poverty and denial of human rights may not be said to “cause” civil war, terrorism or organized crime, they all greatly increase the risk of instability and violence. Similarly, war and atrocities are far from the only reasons that countries are trapped in poverty, but they undoubtedly set back development. Again, catastrophic terrorism on one side of the globe, for example an attack against a major financial centre in a rich country, could affect the development prospects of millions on the other by causing a major economic

downturn and plunging millions into poverty. And countries which are well governed and respect the human rights of their citizens are better placed to avoid the horrors of conflict and to overcome obstacles to development.

17. Accordingly, we will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed. In this new millennium, the work of the United Nations must move our world closer to the day when all people have the freedom to choose the kind of lives they would like to live, the access to the resources that would make those choices meaningful and the security to ensure that they can be enjoyed in peace.

### **C. The imperative of collective action**

18. In a world of interconnected threats and challenges, it is in each country's self-interest that all of them are addressed effectively. Hence, the cause of larger freedom can only be advanced by broad, deep and sustained global cooperation among States. Such cooperation is possible if every country's policies take into account not only the needs of its own citizens but also the needs of others. This kind of cooperation not only advances everyone's interests but also recognizes our common humanity.

19. The proposals contained in the present report are designed to strengthen States and enable them to serve their peoples better by working together on the basis of shared principles and priorities — which is, after all, the very reason the United Nations exists. Sovereign States are the basic and indispensable building blocks of the international system. It is their job to guarantee the rights of their citizens, to protect them from crime, violence and aggression, and to provide the framework of freedom under law in which individuals can prosper and society develop. If States are fragile, the peoples of the world will not enjoy the security, development and justice that are their right. Therefore, one of the great challenges of the new millennium is to ensure that all States are strong enough to meet the many challenges they face.

20. States, however, cannot do the job alone. We need an active civil society and a dynamic private sector. Both occupy an increasingly large and important share of the space formerly reserved for States alone, and it is plain that the goals outlined here will not be achieved without their full engagement.

21. We also need agile and effective regional and global intergovernmental institutions to mobilize and coordinate collective action. As the world's only universal body with a mandate to address security, development and human rights issues, the United Nations bears a special burden. As globalization shrinks distances around the globe and these issues become increasingly interconnected, the comparative advantages of the United Nations become ever more evident. So too, however, do some of its real weaknesses. From overhauling basic management practices and building a more transparent, efficient and effective United Nations system to revamping our major intergovernmental institutions so that they reflect today's world and advance the priorities set forth in the present report, we must reshape the Organization in ways not previously imagined and with a boldness and speed not previously shown.

22. In our efforts to strengthen the contributions of States, civil society, the private sector and international institutions to advancing a vision of larger freedom, we must ensure that all involved assume their responsibilities to turn good words into good deeds. We therefore need new mechanisms to ensure accountability — the accountability of States to their citizens, of States to each other, of international institutions to their members and of the present generation to future generations. Where there is accountability we will progress; where there is none we will underperform. The business of the summit to be held in September 2005 must be to ensure that, from now on, promises made are promises kept.

#### **D. Time to decide**

23. At this defining moment in history, we must be ambitious. Our action must be as urgent as the need, and on the same scale. We must face immediate threats immediately. We must take advantage of an unprecedented consensus on how to promote global economic and social development, and we must forge a new consensus on how to confront new threats. Only by acting decisively now can we both confront the pressing security challenges and win a decisive victory in the global battle against poverty by 2015.

24. In today's world, no State, however powerful, can protect itself on its own. Likewise, no country, weak or strong, can realize prosperity in a vacuum. We can and must act together. We owe it to each other to do so, and we owe each other an account of how we do so. If we live up to those mutual commitments, we can make the new millennium worthy of its name.

## **II. Freedom from want**

25. The past 25 years have seen the most dramatic reduction in extreme poverty that the world has ever experienced. Spearheaded by progress in China and India, literally hundreds of millions of men, women and children all over the world have been able to escape the burdens of extreme impoverishment and begin to enjoy improved access to food, health care, education and housing.

26. Yet at the same time, dozens of countries have become poorer, devastating economic crises have thrown millions of families into poverty, and increasing inequality in large parts of the world means that the benefits of economic growth have not been evenly shared. Today, more than a billion people — one in every six human beings — still live on less than a dollar a day, lacking the means to stay alive in the face of chronic hunger, disease and environmental hazards. In other words, this is a poverty that kills. A single bite from a malaria-bearing mosquito is enough to end a child's life for want of a bed net or \$1 treatment. A drought or pest that destroys a harvest turns subsistence into starvation. A world in which every year 11 million children die before their fifth birthday and three million people die of AIDS is not a world of larger freedom.

27. For centuries, this kind of poverty has been regarded as a sad but inescapable aspect of the human condition. Today, that view is intellectually and morally indefensible. The scale and scope of progress made by countries in every region of the world has shown that, over a very short time, poverty and maternal and infant



mortality can be dramatically reduced, while education, gender equality and other aspects of development can be dramatically advanced. The unprecedented combination of resources and technology at our disposal today means that we are truly the first generation with the tools, the knowledge and the resources to meet the commitment, given by all States in the Millennium Declaration, “to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want”.

## **A. A shared vision of development**

28. The multifaceted challenge of development cuts across a vast array of interlinked issues — ranging from gender equality through health and education to the environment. The historic United Nations conferences and summits held in the 1990s helped build a comprehensive normative framework around these linkages for the first time by mapping out a broad vision of shared development priorities. These laid the groundwork for the Millennium Summit to set out a series of time-bound targets across all these areas — ranging from halving extreme poverty to putting all children into primary school, all with a deadline of 2015 — that were later crystallized into the Millennium Development Goals (see box 1).

### **Box 1 The Millennium Development Goals**

#### **Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

##### *Target 1*

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

##### *Target 2*

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

#### **Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education**

##### *Target 3*

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

#### **Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women**

##### *Target 4*

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015

**Goal 4**  
**Reduce child mortality**

*Target 5*

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

**Goal 5**  
**Improve maternal health**

*Target 6*

Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

**Goal 6**  
**Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

*Target 7*

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

*Target 8*

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

**Goal 7**  
**Ensure environmental sustainability**

*Target 9*

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

*Target 10*

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

*Target 11*

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers

**Goal 8**  
**Develop a global partnership for development**

*Target 12*

Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally)

*Target 13*

Address the special needs of the least developed countries (includes tariff- and quota-free access for least developed countries exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries)

and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction)

*Target 14*

Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

*Target 15*

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

*Target 16*

In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

*Target 17*

In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

*Target 18*

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

29. The Millennium Development Goals have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest, becoming globally accepted benchmarks of broader progress embraced by donors, developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike. As such, they reflect an urgent and globally shared and endorsed set of priorities that we need to address at the September 2005 summit. Thanks to the work done by the Millennium Project, whose report, *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*,<sup>2</sup> was delivered to me in January 2005, there is now an action plan to achieve them. There are also encouraging signs that the critical ingredient — political will — is emerging. The real test will be whether broad-based actions by developed and developing countries to address this agenda are supported by global development assistance being more than doubled over the next few years, for this is what will be necessary to help achieve the Goals.

30. At the same time, we need to see the Millennium Development Goals as part of an even larger development agenda. While the Goals have been the subject of an enormous amount of follow-up both inside and outside the United Nations, they clearly do not in themselves represent a complete development agenda. They do not directly encompass some of the broader issues covered by the conferences of the 1990s, nor do they address the particular needs of middle-income developing countries or the questions of growing inequality and the wider dimensions of human

development and good governance, which all require the effective implementation of conference outcomes.

31. Nevertheless, the urgency of achieving the Millennium Development Goals cannot be overstated. Despite progress in many areas, overall the world is falling short of what is needed, especially in the poorest countries (see box 2). As the Millennium Project's report makes clear, our agenda is still achievable globally and in most or even all countries — but only if we break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate and scale up action until 2015, beginning over the next 12 months. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. That is because development successes cannot take place overnight and many countries suffer significant capacity constraints. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers, to build the roads, schools and hospitals, and to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed.

### **Box 2**

#### **Progress on the Millennium Development Goals**

Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been far from uniform across the world. The greatest improvements have been in East Asia and South Asia, where more than 200 million people have been lifted out of poverty since 1990 alone. Nonetheless, nearly 700 million people in Asia still live on less than \$1 a day — nearly two thirds of the world's poorest people — while even some of the fastest-growing countries are falling short on non-income Goals, such as protecting the environment and reducing maternal mortality. Sub-Saharan Africa is at the epicentre of the crisis, falling seriously short on most Goals, with continuing food insecurity, disturbingly high child and maternal mortality, growing numbers of people living in slums and an overall rise of extreme poverty despite some important progress in individual countries. Latin America, the transition economies, and the Middle East and North Africa, often hampered by growing inequality, have more mixed records, with significant variations in progress but general trends falling short of what is needed to meet the 2015 deadline.

Progress in the achievement of the different Goals has also varied. Although sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania are lagging in almost all areas, elsewhere major advances are being made in reducing hunger, improving access to drinking water and expanding the number of children in primary school. Child mortality rates have also generally declined, but progress has slowed in many regions and has even been reversed in parts of Central Asia. Meanwhile, despite dramatic progress in some countries overall access to sanitation is off track, particularly in Africa and Asia, where the number of slum-dwellers is also increasing rapidly. Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high throughout the developing world, as do the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Gender equality remains unfulfilled, the 2005 education parity target was missed in many countries. Environmental degradation is an extreme concern in all developing regions.

32. In 2005, the development of a global partnership between rich and poor countries — which is itself the eighth Goal, reaffirmed and elaborated three years ago at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa — needs to become a reality. It is worth recalling the terms of that historic compact. **Each developing country has primary responsibility for its own development — strengthening governance, combating corruption and putting in place the policies and investments to drive private-sector-led growth and maximize domestic resources available to fund national development strategies. Developed countries, on their side, undertake that developing countries which adopt transparent, credible and properly costed development strategies will receive the full support they need, in the form of increased development assistance, a more development-oriented trade system and wider and deeper debt relief.** All of this has been promised but not delivered. That failure is measured in the rolls of the dead — and on it are written millions of new names each year.

## **B. National strategies**

33. Extreme poverty has many causes, ranging from adverse geography through poor or corrupt governance (including neglect of marginalized communities) to the ravages of conflict and its aftermath. Most pernicious are poverty traps that leave many of the poorest countries languishing in a vicious circle of destitution even when they have the benefit of honest, committed Governments. Lacking basic infrastructure, human capital and public administration, and burdened by disease, environmental degradation and limited natural resources, these countries cannot afford the basic investments needed to move onto a new path of prosperity unless they receive sustained, targeted external support.

34. As a first step towards addressing these problems, countries need to adopt bold, goal-oriented policy frameworks for the next 10 years, aimed at scaling up investments to achieve at least the quantitative Millennium Development Goals targets. **To that end, each developing country with extreme poverty should by 2006 adopt and begin to implement a national development strategy bold enough to meet the Millennium Development Goals targets for 2015.** This strategy should be anchored in the practical scaling up of public investments, capacity-building, domestic resource mobilization and, where needed, official development assistance. This recommendation may not sound revolutionary, but by linking actions directly to the needs derived from ambitious and monitorable targets, its implementation would mark a fundamental breakthrough towards greater boldness and accountability in the fight against poverty.

35. It is important to stress that this does not require the creation of any new instruments. All that is required is a different approach to their design and implementation. Countries that already have poverty reduction strategy papers — nationally owned and developed three-year spending frameworks agreed with the World Bank and other international development partners — should align them with a 10-year framework of policies and investments consistent with achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In middle-income countries and others where the Goals are already within reach, Governments should adopt a “Millennium Development Goals-plus” strategy, with more ambitious targets.

### **A framework for action**

36. However well crafted on paper, investment strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals will not work in practice unless supported by States with transparent, accountable systems of governance, grounded in the rule of law, encompassing civil and political as well as economic and social rights, and underpinned by accountable and efficient public administration. Many of the poorest countries will need major capacity-building investments to put in place and maintain the necessary infrastructure and to train and employ qualified personnel. But without good governance, strong institutions and a clear commitment to rooting out corruption and mismanagement wherever it is found, broader progress will prove elusive.

37. Similarly, without dynamic, growth-oriented economic policies supporting a healthy private sector capable of generating jobs, income and tax revenues over time, sustainable economic growth will not be achieved. This requires significantly increased investments in human capital and development-oriented infrastructure, such as energy, transport and communications. In addition, small and medium-sized firms require a favourable legal and regulatory environment, including effective commercial laws that define and protect contracts and property rights, a rational public administration that limits and combats corruption, and expanded access to financial capital, including microfinance. As two important Commissions — the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization<sup>3</sup> and the Commission on the Private Sector and Development<sup>4</sup> — reported to me last year, this is crucial for providing decent jobs that both provide income and empower the poor, especially women and younger people.

38. Civil society organizations have a critical role to play in driving this implementation process forward to “make poverty history”. Not only is civil society an indispensable partner in delivering services to the poor at the scope required by the Millennium Development Goals but it can also catalyse action within countries on pressing development concerns, mobilizing broad-based movements and creating grass-roots pressure to hold leaders accountable for their commitments. Internationally, some civil society organizations can help create or galvanize global partnerships on specific issues or draw attention to the plight of indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups, while others can work to share best practices across countries through community exchanges and providing technical support and advice to Governments.

### **National investment and policy priorities**

39. Each national strategy needs to take into account seven broad “clusters” of public investments and policies which directly address the Millennium Development Goals and set the foundation for private sector-led growth. As elaborated in the Millennium Project, all are essential for meeting the Goals, as well as wider development needs.

#### *Gender equality: overcoming pervasive gender bias*

40. Empowered women can be some of the most effective drivers of development. Direct interventions to advance gender equality include increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls, ensuring secure tenure of property to women, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services, promoting

equal access to labour markets, providing the opportunity for greater representation in government decision-making bodies and protecting women from violence.

*The environment: investing in better resource management*

41. Countries should adopt time-bound environmental targets, particularly for such priorities as forest replanting, integrated water resources management, ecosystem preservation and curbing pollution. To achieve targets, increased investments in environmental management need to be accompanied by broad policy reforms. Progress also depends on sector strategies, including strategies for agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, fisheries, energy and transport, which all require environmental safeguards. Further, improving access to modern energy services is critical for both reducing poverty and protecting the environment. There is also a need to ensure that enhancing access to safe drinking water and sanitation forms a part of development strategies.

*Rural development: increasing food output and incomes*

42. Smallholder farmers and others living in impoverished rural areas require soil nutrients, better plant varieties, improved water management and training in modern and environmentally sustainable farming practices, along with access to transport, water, sanitation and modern energy services. **In sub-Saharan Africa, these elements must be brought together to launch a twenty-first century African green revolution commencing in 2005.**

*Urban development: promoting jobs, upgrading slums and developing alternatives to new slum formation*

43. For the large and growing number of urban poor, core infrastructure services, such as energy, transport, pollution control and waste disposal, are needed alongside improved security of tenure and community-led efforts to build decent housing and support urban planning. To this end, local authorities need to be strengthened and work closely with organizations of the urban poor.

*Health systems: ensuring universal access to essential services*

44. Strong health systems are required to ensure universal access to basic health services, including services to promote child and maternal health, to support reproductive health and to control killer diseases, such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (see box 3). This requires sufficient investments, large numbers of motivated and adequately paid health workers, scaled-up infrastructure and supplies, strong management systems and the elimination of user fees.

*Education: ensuring universal primary, expanded secondary and higher education*

45. To advance education at all levels, parents and communities should be able to hold their schools accountable while Governments improve curricula, educational quality and mode of delivery; build human resource and infrastructure capacity, where needed; and institute incentives for bringing vulnerable children to school, including the elimination of user fees.

*Science, technology, and innovation: building national capacities*

46. To increase countries' indigenous capacity for science and technology, including information and communications technology, Governments should establish scientific advisory bodies, promote infrastructure as an opportunity for technological learning, expand science and engineering faculties, and stress development and business applications in science and technology curricula.

**Box 3**  
**The Tragedy of HIV/AIDS**

The HIV/AIDS pandemic now kills more than 3 million people each year and poses an unprecedented threat to human development and security. The disease is wrecking millions of families and leaving tens of millions of orphans. More than just a public health crisis, AIDS undermines economic and social stability, ravaging health, education, agriculture and social welfare systems. While placing an enormous drag on economic growth, it also weakens governance and security structures, posing a further threat.

The epidemic demands an exceptional response. In the absence of a cure, only the mass mobilization of every section of society — unheard of to date in the history of public health — can begin to reverse AIDS. This requires comprehensive prevention, education, treatment and impact mitigation programmes, which in turn will not succeed without the personal commitment of Heads of State and Government to support and lead genuinely multisectoral AIDS responses.

Since 2000, the world has begun to achieve some successes in the fight against AIDS. More Governments have made it a strategic priority and set up integrated administrative structures to lead and coordinate the struggle. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which I called for in 2001, now plays a leading role in the global effort, while also focusing attention on and fighting other killer pandemics. Altogether, as of December 2004, 700,000 people in the developing world were receiving antiretroviral treatment — a nearly 60 per cent increase in just five months. This reflects the priority that the international community has now placed on rapidly expanding treatment, and shows that a real difference can be made in a very short time.

However, much remains to be done if we are to have any realistic hope of reducing the incidence of HIV and providing proper antiretroviral treatment to all who need it within the coming decade. Many Governments have yet to tackle the disease and its stigma publicly, or are not sufficiently committed to the kind of frank discussion and action on gender equality that is needed. In particular, resources for AIDS remain far short of what is needed to mount a full inclusive response. National Governments, as well as multilateral and bilateral donors, must now take steps to meet these costs.

Four years ago, I called on the international community to provide \$7 billion to \$10 billion annually to address the projected needs to fight HIV/AIDS in the developing world. This amount has not been fully



funded. In the meantime, the disease has spread. As a result, we have an ever increasing gap between what is needed and what is provided. This cannot continue. We need a more ambitious and balanced strategy of both prevention and treatment. **Therefore, I call on the international community to provide urgently the resources needed for an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS, as identified by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its partners, and to provide full funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.**

### C. Making goal 8 work: trade and financing for development

47. For many middle-income countries and some poorer ones, most of the resources needed to fund these strategies can and should be mobilized domestically from reallocated government revenues, household contributions and private-sector investment, supplemented by borrowing. But in most low-income countries and in nearly all the least developed countries, the maximum that can be raised by such efforts will fall far short of what is needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals. According to the Millennium Project, the investment costs for the Goals alone in a typical low-income country will be roughly \$75 per capita in 2006, rising to approximately \$140 in 2015 (in constant dollar terms). These small sums, equivalent to one third to one half of their annual per capita incomes, are far beyond the resources of most low-income countries. To create the conditions for greater private investment and an “exit strategy” from aid in the longer term for these countries, a big push in development assistance is needed.

#### Aid

48. One of the most encouraging shifts in recent years has been the increase in official development assistance (ODA), after a decade of steady decline in the 1990s. Expressed as a percentage of developed countries’ gross national income, global ODA currently stands at 0.25 per cent — still well short of the 0.33 per cent reached in the late 1980s, let alone the long-standing target of 0.7 per cent that was reaffirmed in the Monterrey Consensus in 2002.<sup>5</sup> On the basis of recent commitments to future increases by several donors, annual ODA flows should increase to about \$100 billion by 2010 — nearly double their levels at the time of the Monterrey Conference. But a significant portion of this amount reflects debt write-offs and dollar depreciation rather than net long-term finance, and in any case the total would still be about \$50 billion short of the ODA levels that the Millennium Project calculates will be needed just to meet the Millennium Development Goals, let alone broader development priorities.

49. Happily, there are signs of further progress. A new group of donors has emerged, including new members of the European Union (EU) and some of the wealthier developing countries, such as Brazil, China and India, all of which are increasingly offering their expertise to other developing countries through technical cooperation. Five donor countries have already reached the 0.7 per cent target and six more have recently set timetables to achieve it. **Developed countries that have not already done so should establish timetables to achieve the 0.7 per cent**

**target of gross national income for official development assistance by no later than 2015, starting with significant increases no later than 2006 and reaching 0.5 per cent by 2009.**

50. While there are clearly capacity constraints in many developing countries, we must ensure that those countries that are ready receive an immediate scale up in assistance. **Starting in 2005, developing countries that put forward sound, transparent and accountable national strategies and require increased development assistance should receive a sufficient increase in aid, of sufficient quality and arriving with sufficient speed to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.**

51. The most direct way to increase ODA volumes is to allocate increasing shares of donor countries' national budgets to aid. However, because the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals requires a sharp upward turn in overall ODA spending over the next few years, new ways to finance a steep increase in the short and medium terms are well worth exploring. Several longer-term ideas for innovative sources of finance to complement ODA have been proposed, and an important initiative led by Brazil, Chile, France, Germany and Spain is currently exploring some of them. But what is needed now is a mechanism to ensure the immediate scale-up of financing. The proposed International Finance Facility has the potential to do this by "front-loading" future flows of ODA while still using existing disbursement channels. **The international community should in 2005 launch an International Finance Facility to support an immediate front-loading of ODA, underpinned by scaled-up commitments to achieving the 0.7 per cent ODA target no later than 2015. In the longer term, other innovative sources of finance for development should also be considered to supplement the Facility.**

52. **These steps can and should be supplemented by immediate action to support a series of "quick wins" — relatively inexpensive, high-impact initiatives with the potential to generate major short-term gains and save millions of lives.** These range from the free mass distribution of malaria bed nets and effective antimalaria medicines to the expansion of home-grown school meal programmes using locally produced food and the elimination of user fees for primary education and health services. Such rapid steps would provide a critical support for national Millennium Development Goals strategies. They would generate rapid momentum and early success stories that would broaden commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, although they would not be a substitute for longer-term, sustained investments.

53. At the same time, urgent steps are needed to increase the quality, transparency and accountability of ODA. Aid should be linked to the local needs identified in countries' national strategies and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, not to the interests of suppliers in donor countries. This is obviously for the benefit of developing countries, but developed countries themselves also have an interest in being able to show their taxpayers that aid is effective. **In follow-up to the March 2005 Paris High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, donor countries should set, by September 2005, timetables and monitorable targets for aligning their aid delivery mechanisms with partner countries' Millennium Development Goals-based national strategies.** This includes commitments to Millennium Development Goals-based investment plans, a 2015 time horizon, predictable multi-year funding, dramatically simplified

procedures and direct budget support for countries with appropriate mechanisms in place.

### **Debt**

54. Closely related to ODA is the issue of external debt. Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), \$54 billion has so far been committed for debt relief to 27 countries that have reached decision or completion points. But even though the evidence is persuasive that this unlocks resources which are critical for the Millennium Development Goals, it still falls far short of what is needed. **To move forward, we should redefine debt sustainability as the level of debt that allows a country to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and reach 2015 without an increase in debt ratios.** For most HIPC countries, this will require exclusively grant-based finance and 100 per cent debt cancellation, while for many heavily indebted non-HIPC and middle-income countries, it will require significantly more debt reduction than has yet been on offer. Additional debt cancellation should be achieved without reducing the resources available to other developing countries, and without jeopardizing the long-term financial viability of international financial institutions.

### **Trade**

55. While trade does not obviate the need for large scale ODA-supported development investments, an open and equitable trading system can be a powerful driver of economic growth and poverty reduction, especially when combined with adequate aid. Development therefore rightly lies at the heart of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations. At present, developing countries are often denied a level playing field to compete in global trade because rich countries use a variety of tariffs, quotas and subsidies to restrict access to their own markets and shelter their own producers. The December 2005 WTO ministerial meeting offers a chance, which must not be missed, to map out agreement on how to correct these anomalies. An urgent priority is to establish a timetable for developed countries to dismantle market access barriers and begin phasing out trade-distorting domestic subsidies, especially in agriculture. **To address this priority, the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations should fulfil its development promise and be completed no later than 2006. As a first step, Member States should provide duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports from the least developed countries.**

56. The Monterrey Consensus stressed that for many developing countries, particularly the poorest, which rely on a few commodity products, there is also a supply-side problem which manifests itself in a lack of capacity to diversify exports, a vulnerability to price fluctuations and a steady decline in terms of trade. To build trade competitiveness, national Millennium Development Goals strategies need to emphasize investments in agricultural productivity, trade-related infrastructure and competitive export industries, particularly for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. While a number of initiatives exist to address these problems, encourage diversification and reduce vulnerability to commodity price fluctuations, support for them has fallen far short of what is necessary.

## **D. Ensuring environmental sustainability**

57. We fundamentally depend on natural systems and resources for our existence and development. Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated. At the country level, national strategies must include investments in improved environmental management and make the structural changes required for environmental sustainability. For many environmental priorities, such as shared waterways, forests, marine fisheries and biodiversity, regional and global efforts must be strengthened. We already have one encouraging example showing how global solutions can be found. Thanks to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,<sup>6</sup> the risk of harmful radiation appears to be receding — a clear demonstration of how global environmental problems can be managed when all countries make determined efforts to implement internationally agreed frameworks. Today, three major challenges for the international community require particularly urgent action, as described below.

### **Desertification**

58. The degradation of more than a billion hectares of land has had a devastating impact on development in many parts of the world. Millions of people have been forced to abandon their lands as farming and nomadic lifestyles have become unsustainable. Hundreds of millions more are at risk of becoming environmental refugees. To combat desertification, the international community must support and implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.<sup>7</sup>

### **Biodiversity**

59. Another serious concern is loss of biodiversity, which is occurring at an unprecedented rate within and across countries. Worrying in its own right, this trend also severely undermines health, livelihoods, food production and clean water, and increases the vulnerability of populations to natural disasters and climate change. To reverse these trends, all Governments should take steps, individually and collectively, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>8</sup> and the Johannesburg commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010.<sup>9</sup>

### **Climate change**

60. One of the greatest environmental and development challenges in the twenty-first century will be that of controlling and coping with climate change. The overwhelming majority of scientists now agree that human activity is having a significant impact on the climate. Since the advent of the industrial era in the mid-eighteenth century, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased significantly, the earth has warmed considerably and sea levels have risen measurably. The 1990s were the warmest decade on record, forcing glaciers and Arctic ice to retreat. With the concentration of greenhouse gases projected to rise still further over the next century, a corresponding increase in the global mean surface temperature is likely to trigger increased climate variability and greater incidence and intensity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and droughts.

The countries most vulnerable to such changes — small island developing States, coastal nations with large numbers of people living in low-lying areas, and countries in the arid and semi-arid tropics and subtropics — are least able to protect themselves. They also contribute least to the global emissions of greenhouse gases. Without action, they will pay a bitter price for the actions of others.

61. The entry into force in February 2005 of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol<sup>10</sup> to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>11</sup> is an important step towards dealing with global warming, but it only extends until 2012. The international community must agree on stabilization targets for greenhouse gas concentrations beyond that date. Scientific advances and technological innovation have an important role to play in mitigating climate change and in facilitating adaptation to the new conditions. They must be mobilized now if we are to develop the tools needed in time. In particular, research and development funding for renewable energy sources, carbon management and energy efficiency needs to increase substantially. Policy mechanisms, such as carbon trading markets, should also be expanded. As agreed at Johannesburg, the primary responsibility for mitigating climate change and other unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must lie with the countries that contribute most to the problems. **We must develop a more inclusive international framework beyond 2012, with broader participation by all major emitters and both developed and developing countries, to ensure a concerted globally defined action, including through technological innovation, to mitigate climate change, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.**

## E. Other priorities for global action

62. To address broader development needs, action is also needed in a number of other areas, as set out below.

### **Infectious disease surveillance and monitoring**

63. The overall international response to evolving pandemics has been shockingly slow and remains shamefully underresourced. Malaria continues to rage throughout the tropical world, despite the availability of highly effective measures for prevention and treatment. Many infectious diseases that ravage developing countries today, notably HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, pose severe risks for the entire world, particularly in the light of emerging drug resistance. Both familiar and new infectious diseases require a concerted international response. The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003 drew attention to the fact that even long-distance flight times are shorter than the incubation periods for many infectious diseases, so that any one of the 700 million passengers who take international flights each year can be an unwitting disease carrier.

64. The rapid response to SARS also showed that the spread of infectious disease can be contained when effective global institutions, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), work in close partnership with functioning national health agencies and expert technical institutions. No State could have achieved this degree of containment on its own. **To strengthen existing mechanisms for timely and effective international cooperation, I call on Member States to agree on the revision of the International Health Regulations at the World Health Assembly**

**to be held in May 2005.** To contain the risk of future outbreaks, greater resources should also be given to the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network so that it can coordinate the response of a broad international partnership in support of national health surveillance and response systems.

#### **Natural disasters**

65. The devastating impact of the Indian Ocean tsunami has reminded us all of the vulnerability of human life to natural disasters, and also of the disproportionate effect they have on poor people. Unless more determined efforts are made to address the loss of lives, livelihoods and infrastructure, disasters will become an increasingly serious obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in early 2005, adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which identifies strategic objectives and priority areas to reduce disaster risk in the next 10 years. We must proceed with its implementation.

66. The countries of the Indian Ocean region, with the help of the United Nations and others, are now taking steps to establish a regional tsunami early warning system. Let us not forget, however, the other hazards that people in all regions of the world are exposed to, including storms, floods, droughts, landslides, heat waves and volcanic eruptions. **To complement broader disaster preparedness and mitigation initiatives, I recommend the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards, building on existing national and regional capacity.** To assist in its establishment, I shall be requesting the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat to coordinate a survey of existing capacities and gaps, in cooperation with all United Nations system entities concerned, and I look forward to receiving its findings and recommendations. When disasters strike, we also need improved rapid response arrangements for immediate humanitarian relief, which are considered in section V below.

#### **Science and technology for development**

67. **To help drive economic development and to enable developing countries to forge solutions to their own problems, a significantly increased global effort is required to support research and development to address the special needs of the poor in the areas of health, agriculture, natural resource and environmental management, energy and climate.** Two particular priorities should be to mount a major global initiative on research in tropical diseases and to provide additional support to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) for research on tropical agriculture.

68. Information and communication technologies can significantly contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. To fully utilize the potential of information and communication technology (ICT), we need to address the digital divide, including through voluntary financing mechanisms, such as the recently launched Digital Solidarity Fund.

#### **Regional infrastructure and institutions**

69. Regional infrastructure and policy cooperation are essential for supporting economic development. This is particularly so when developing countries are landlocked or small islands, both of which need special support. But other countries

that may simply have small populations or are dependent on their neighbours for transport, food, water or energy, also need assistance. International donors should support regional cooperation to deal with these problems, and developing countries should make such cooperation an integral part of their national strategies. This should cover not only economic cooperation but also mechanisms for regional political dialogue and consensus-building, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

### **Global institutions**

70. The international financial institutions are essential to ensuring development around the world and successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. I encourage them to ensure that the country programmes they support are ambitious enough to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, these institutions and their shareholders should consider what changes they might undergo in order to better reflect the changes in the world's political economy since 1945. This should be done in the context of the Monterrey Consensus agreement to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing and transition countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting. The Bretton Woods institutions have already taken some steps to strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries. But more significant steps are needed to overcome the widespread perception among developing countries that they are underrepresented in both bodies, which in turn tends to put their legitimacy in doubt.

### **Migration**

71. Today, more people live outside their countries of origin than at any time in history and their numbers are expected to increase in the future. Migration offers many opportunities — to the migrants themselves, to the countries that receive younger workforce and also — notably in the form of remittance payments, which have grown spectacularly in recent years — to their countries of origin. But it also involves many complex challenges. It can contribute simultaneously to unemployment in one region or sector and to labour shortages and “brain drains” in another. If not carefully managed, it can also provoke acute social and political tensions. The impact of these trends is not yet well understood, but I believe that the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, which I shall receive later in 2005, will provide some valuable guidance. The high-level dialogue on the subject to be held by the General Assembly in 2006 will provide an important opportunity to tackle the hard questions on this issue.

## **F. The implementation challenge**

72. The urgent task in 2005 is to implement in full the commitments already made and to render genuinely operational the framework already in place. The principles of mutual responsibility and mutual accountability that underpinned the Monterrey Consensus are sound and need to be translated into deeds. The September summit must produce a pact for action, to which all nations subscribe and on which all can be judged. The Millennium Development Goals must no longer be floating targets, referred to now and then to measure progress. They must inform, on a daily basis, national strategies and international assistance alike. Without a bold breakthrough in 2005 that lays the groundwork for a rapid progress in coming years, we will miss

the targets. Let us be clear about the costs of missing this opportunity: millions of lives that could have been saved will be lost; many freedoms that could have been secured will be denied; and we shall inhabit a more dangerous and unstable world.

73. By the same token, development would be at best hindered and at worst reversed in a world riven by violent conflict or mesmerized by the fear of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, or one in which human rights were trampled, the rule of law was disregarded and citizens' views and needs were ignored by unresponsive and unrepresentative Governments. Progress on the issues covered in sections III and IV below, therefore, is essential to realizing the objectives set out above, just as development is itself an indispensable underpinning for longer-term security, human rights and the rule of law.

#### **Box 4** **The special needs of Africa**

The problems discussed in the present report are global in nature, and solutions must be global. Yet almost all of them affect Africa disproportionately. If we are to achieve truly global solutions, we must recognize Africa's special needs, as world leaders did in the Millennium Declaration. From action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals to better collective capacity to build peace and strengthen States, the special needs of Africa lie at the heart of every part of the present report.

There have been some positive developments in Africa in the past five years. Today, more African States have democratically elected Governments than ever before and the number of military coups on the continent has declined significantly. Some long-standing conflicts, such as those in Angola and Sierra Leone, have been resolved. From Uganda to Mozambique, many individual countries are experiencing rapid and sustained economic and social recovery. And throughout the continent, ordinary people are organizing themselves and making their voices heard.

And yet much of Africa — especially South of the Sahara — continues to suffer the tragic effects of persistent violent conflict, extreme poverty and disease. Some 2.8 million refugees — and fully half of the world's 24.6 million internally displaced people — are victims of conflict and upheaval in Africa. Africa continues to lag behind the rest of the developing world in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. About three quarters of the world's AIDS deaths every year occur in Africa, with women the most affected. The high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in many African countries is both a human tragedy and a major obstacle to development. Of the one million or more people in the world killed by malaria each year, roughly 90 per cent are killed in sub-Saharan Africa, most of them children less than five years old. Much of sub-Saharan Africa continues to face a combination of high transport costs and small markets, low agricultural productivity, a very high disease burden and slow diffusion of technology from abroad. All these make it particularly prone to persistent poverty.



Today, African States are addressing these problems with new energy and determination. They are adopting more robust development strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Africa is building a new architecture of institutions, including the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, through which to prevent, manage and resolve violent conflict, promote good governance and democracy, and create the right conditions for its economies to grow and thrive in a sustainable way.

As the Commission on Africa set up by the United Kingdom reported in March 2005, Africa's leaders and people will need special support from the rest of the world to succeed in these pioneering efforts. The international community must respond to this need. It must give tangible and sustained support to African countries and regional and subregional organizations, in a spirit of partnership and solidarity. This means ensuring follow-through on existing and needed commitments on debt relief, opening markets and providing greatly increased official development assistance. It also means contributing troops for peacekeeping operations and strengthening the capacity of African States to provide security for their citizens and to meet their needs.

### **III. Freedom from fear**

74. While, in the development sphere, we suffer from weak implementation, on the security side, despite a heightened sense of threat among many we lack even a basic consensus and implementation, where it occurs, is all too often contested.

75. Unless we can agree on a shared assessment of these threats and a common understanding of our obligations in addressing them, the United Nations will lag in providing security to all of its members and all the world's people. Our ability to assist those who seek freedom from fear will then be partial at best.

#### **A. A vision of collective security**

76. In November 2003, alarmed by the lack of agreement among Member States on the proper role of the United Nations in providing collective security — or even on the nature of the most compelling threats that we face — I set up the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. The Panel delivered its report, "A more secure world: our shared responsibility" (A/59/565), in December 2004.

77. I fully embrace the broad vision that the report articulates and its case for a more comprehensive concept of collective security: one that tackles new threats and old and that addresses the security concerns of all States. I believe that this concept can bridge the gap between divergent views of security and give us the guidance we need to face today's dilemmas.

78. The threats to peace and security in the twenty-first century include not just international war and conflict but civil violence, organized crime, terrorism and

weapons of mass destruction. They also include poverty, deadly infectious disease and environmental degradation since these can have equally catastrophic consequences. All of these threats can cause death or lessen life chances on a large scale. All of them can undermine States as the basic unit of the international system.

79. Depending on wealth, geography and power, we perceive different threats as the most pressing. But the truth is we cannot afford to choose. Collective security today depends on accepting that the threats which each region of the world perceives as most urgent are in fact equally so for all.

80. In our globalized world, the threats we face are interconnected. The rich are vulnerable to the threats that attack the poor and the strong are vulnerable to the weak, as well as vice versa. A nuclear terrorist attack on the United States or Europe would have devastating effects on the whole world. But so would the appearance of a new virulent pandemic disease in a poor country with no effective health-care system.

81. On this interconnectedness of threats we must found a new security consensus, the first article of which must be that all are entitled to freedom from fear, and that whatever threatens one threatens all. Once we understand this, we have no choice but to tackle the whole range of threats. We must respond to HIV/AIDS as robustly as we do to terrorism and to poverty as effectively as we do to proliferation. We must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of small arms and light weapons as we do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, we must address all these threats preventively, acting at a sufficiently early stage with the full range of available instruments.

82. We need to ensure that States abide by the security treaties they have signed so that all can continue to reap the benefit. More consistent monitoring, more effective implementation and, where necessary, firmer enforcement are essential if States are to have confidence in multilateral mechanisms and use them to avoid conflict.

83. These are not theoretical issues but issues of deadly urgency. If we do not reach a consensus on them this year and start to act on it, we may not have another chance. This year, if ever, we must transform the United Nations into the effective instrument for preventing conflict that it was always meant to be by acting on several key policy and institutional priorities.

84. We must act to ensure that catastrophic terrorism never becomes a reality. This will require a new global strategy, which begins with Member States agreeing on a definition of terrorism and including it in a comprehensive convention. It will also require all States to sign, ratify, implement and comply with comprehensive conventions against organized crime and corruption. And it will require from them a commitment to take urgent steps to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons getting into the hands of terrorist groups.

85. We must revitalize our multilateral frameworks for handling threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. The threat posed by these weapons is not limited to terrorist use. The existence of multilateral instruments to promote disarmament and prevent proliferation among States has been central to the maintenance of international peace and security ever since those instruments were agreed. But they are now in danger of erosion. They must be revitalized to ensure continued progress on disarmament and to address the growing risk of a cascade of proliferation, especially in the nuclear field.

86. We must continue to reduce the prevalence and risk of war. This requires both the emphasis on development outlined in section II above and the strengthening of tools to deliver the military and civilian support needed to prevent and end wars as well as to build a sustainable peace. Investment in prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding can save millions of lives. If only two peace agreements had been successfully implemented in the early 1990s — the Bicesse Accords in Angola and the Arusha Accords in Rwanda — we could have prevented the deaths of almost three million people.

## **B. Preventing catastrophic terrorism**

### **Transnational terrorism**

87. Terrorism is a threat to all that the United Nations stands for: respect for human rights, the rule of law, the protection of civilians, tolerance among peoples and nations, and the peaceful resolution of conflict. It is a threat that has grown more urgent in the last five years. Transnational networks of terrorist groups have global reach and make common cause to pose a universal threat. Such groups profess a desire to acquire nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and to inflict mass casualties. Even one such attack and the chain of events it might set off could change our world forever.

88. Our strategy against terrorism must be comprehensive and should be based on five pillars: it must aim at dissuading people from resorting to terrorism or supporting it; it must deny terrorists access to funds and materials; it must deter States from sponsoring terrorism; it must develop State capacity to defeat terrorism; and it must defend human rights. **I urge Member States and civil society organizations everywhere to join in that strategy.**

89. Several steps are urgently required, as described below.

90. We must convince all those who may be tempted to support terrorism that it is neither an acceptable nor an effective way to advance their cause. But the moral authority of the United Nations and its strength in condemning terrorism have been hampered by the inability of Member States to agree on a comprehensive convention that includes a definition.

91. It is time to set aside debates on so-called “State terrorism”. The use of force by States is already thoroughly regulated under international law. And the right to resist occupation must be understood in its true meaning. It cannot include the right to deliberately kill or maim civilians. I endorse fully the High-level Panel’s call for a definition of terrorism, which would make it clear that, in addition to actions already proscribed by existing conventions, any action constitutes terrorism if it is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a Government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act. **I believe this proposal has clear moral force, and I strongly urge world leaders to unite behind it and to conclude a comprehensive convention on terrorism before the end of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.**

92. It is vital that we deny terrorists access to nuclear materials. This means consolidating, securing and, when possible, eliminating hazardous materials and

implementing effective export controls. While the Group of Eight Major Industrialized Countries (G8) and the Security Council have taken important steps to do this, we need to make sure that these measures are fully enforced and that they reinforce each other. **I urge Member States to complete, without delay, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.**

93. The threat of biological terrorism differs from that of nuclear terrorism. There will soon be thousands of laboratories around the world capable of producing designer bugs with awesome lethal potential. Our best defence against this danger lies in strengthening public health, and the recommendations to this end contained in section II above have a double merit: they would both help to address the scourge of naturally occurring infectious disease and contribute to our safety against manmade outbreaks. As we commit ourselves to strengthen local health systems — a task that will take us a generation — we must also ensure that our existing global response is adequate. The World Health Organization Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network has done an impressive job in monitoring and responding to outbreaks of deadly infectious disease, whether natural or suspicious. But it has done so on a shoestring. **I urge Member States to give it the resources it needs to do the job thoroughly, in all our interests.**

94. Terrorists are accountable to no one. We, on the other hand, must never lose sight of our accountability to citizens all around the world. In our struggle against terrorism, we must never compromise human rights. When we do so we facilitate achievement of one of the terrorist's objectives. By ceding the moral high ground we provoke tension, hatred and mistrust of Governments among precisely those parts of the population where terrorists find recruits. **I urge Member States to create a special rapporteur who would report to the Commission on Human Rights on the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights laws.**

#### **Organized crime**

95. The threat of terrorism is closely linked to that of organized crime, which is growing and affects the security of all States. Organized crime contributes to State weakness, impedes economic growth, fuels many civil wars, regularly undermines United Nations peacebuilding efforts and provides financing mechanisms to terrorist groups. Organized criminal groups are also heavily involved in the illegal smuggling of migrants and trafficking in firearms.

96. In recent years, the United Nations has made important progress in building a framework of international standards and norms for the fight against organized crime and corruption, with the adoption or entry into force of several major conventions and protocols. However, many of the States parties to these treaties have not implemented them adequately, sometimes because they genuinely lack the capacity to do so. **All States should both ratify and implement these conventions, while helping each other to strengthen their domestic criminal justice and rule-of-law systems. And Member States should give adequate resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its key role in overseeing implementation of the conventions.**

### C. Nuclear, biological and chemical weapons

97. Multilateral efforts to bridle the dangers of nuclear technology while harnessing its promise are nearly as old as the United Nations itself. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>12</sup> 35 years old this month, has proved indispensable: it has not only diminished nuclear peril but has also demonstrated the value of multilateral agreements in safeguarding international peace and security. But today, the Treaty has suffered the first withdrawal of a party to the Treaty and faces a crisis of confidence and compliance born of a growing strain on verification and enforcement. The Conference on Disarmament, for its part, faces a crisis of relevance resulting in part from dysfunctional decision-making procedures and the paralysis that accompanies them.

98. Progress in both disarmament and non-proliferation is essential and neither should be held hostage to the other. Recent moves towards disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States should be recognized. Bilateral agreements, including the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty signed by the United States and the Russian Federation, have led to the dismantlement of thousands of nuclear weapons, accompanied by commitments to further sharp reductions in stockpiles. **However, the unique status of nuclear-weapon States also entails a unique responsibility, and they must do more, including but not limited to further reductions in their arsenals of non-strategic nuclear weapons and pursuing arms control agreements that entail not just dismantlement but irreversibility. They should also reaffirm their commitment to negative security assurances. Swift negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty is essential. The moratorium on nuclear test explosions must also be upheld until we can achieve the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. I strongly encourage States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to endorse these measures at the 2005 Review Conference.**

99. The spread of nuclear technology has exacerbated a long-standing tension within the nuclear regime, arising from the simple fact that the technology required for civilian nuclear fuel can also be used to develop nuclear weapons. Measures to mitigate this tension must confront the dangers of nuclear proliferation but must also take into account the important environmental, energy, economic and research applications of nuclear technology. **First, the verification authority of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must be strengthened through universal adoption of the Model Additional Protocol. Second, while the access of non-nuclear weapon States to the benefits of nuclear technology should not be curtailed, we should focus on creating incentives for States to voluntarily forego the development of domestic uranium enrichment and plutonium separation capacities, while guaranteeing their supply of the fuel necessary to develop peaceful uses.** One option is an arrangement in which IAEA would act as a guarantor for the supply of fissile material to civilian nuclear users at market rates.

100. While the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the foundation of the non-proliferation regime, we should welcome recent efforts to supplement it. These include Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), designed to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, technology and materials, and their means of delivery; and the voluntary Proliferation Security Initiative, under which more and more States are cooperating to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

101. The availability of ballistic missiles with extended range and greater accuracy is of growing concern to many States, as is the spread of shoulder-fired missiles which could be used by terrorists. **Member States should adopt effective national export controls covering missiles and other means of delivery for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, rockets and shoulder-fired missiles, as well as a ban on transferring any of them to non-State actors.** The Security Council should also consider adopting a resolution aimed at making it harder for terrorists to acquire or use shoulder-fired missiles.

102. Where progress has been made, it should be consolidated. The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction<sup>13</sup> calls for the complete elimination and destruction of chemical weapons by all States parties, thus offering a historic opportunity to complete a task begun more than a century ago. **States parties to the Convention on Chemical Weapons should recommit themselves to achieving the scheduled destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles. I call upon all States to accede immediately to the Convention.**

103. The 1975 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction<sup>14</sup> has enjoyed a remarkable degree of support and adherence, and has been strengthened further through recent annual meetings. **States parties should consolidate the results of these meetings at the 2006 Review Conference and commit themselves to further measures to strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. I also call upon all States to accede immediately to the Convention and to increase the transparency of bio-defence programmes.**

104. Further efforts are needed to bolster the biological security regime. The capability of the Secretary-General to investigate suspected use of biological agents, as authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/37, should be strengthened to incorporate the latest technology and expertise; and the Security Council should make use of that capability, consistent with Security Council resolution 620 (1988).

105. Indeed, the Security Council must be better informed on all matters relevant to nuclear, chemical and biological threats. I encourage the Council to regularly invite the Director-General of IAEA and the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to brief the Council on the status of safeguards and verification processes. And I myself stand ready, in consultation with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to use my powers under Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations to call to the attention of the Security Council any overwhelming outbreak of infectious disease that threatens international peace and security.

#### **D. Reducing the risk and prevalence of war**

106. No task is more fundamental to the United Nations than the prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. Prevention, in particular, must be central to all our efforts, from combating poverty and promoting sustainable development; through strengthening national capacities to manage conflict, promoting democracy and the rule of law, and curbing the flow of small arms and light weapons; to directing

preventive operational activities, such as the use of good offices, Security Council missions and preventive deployments.

107. Member States must ensure that the United Nations has the right structure and sufficient resources to perform these vital tasks.

### **Mediation**

108. Although it is difficult to demonstrate, the United Nations has almost certainly prevented many wars by using the Secretary-General's "good offices" to help resolve conflicts peacefully. And over the past 15 years, more civil wars have ended through mediation than in the previous two centuries, in large part because the United Nations provided leadership, opportunities for negotiation, strategic coordination and the resources to implement peace agreements. But we could undoubtedly save many more lives if we had the capacity and personnel to do so. **I urge Member States to allocate additional resources to the Secretary-General for his good offices function.**

### **Sanctions**

109. Sanctions are a vital tool at the disposal of the Security Council for dealing preventively with threats to international peace and security. They constitute a necessary middle ground between war and words. In some cases, sanctions can help to produce agreements. In others, they can be combined with military pressure to weaken and isolate rebel groups or States that are in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions.

110. The use of financial, diplomatic, arms, aviation, travel and commodity sanctions to target belligerents, in particular the individuals most directly responsible for reprehensible policies, will continue to be a vital tool in the United Nations arsenal. **All Security Council sanctions should be effectively implemented and enforced by strengthening State capacity to implement sanctions, establishing well resourced monitoring mechanisms and mitigating humanitarian consequences.** Given the difficult environments in which sanctions are often used and the lessons learned in recent years, future sanctions regimes must also be structured carefully so as to minimize the suffering caused to innocent third parties — including the civilian populations of targeted States — and to protect the integrity of the programmes and institutions involved.

### **Peacekeeping**

111. Over the decades, the United Nations has done a great deal to stabilize zones of conflict, and in the last 15 years or so also to help countries emerge from conflict, by deploying peacekeeping forces. Since the issuance of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809, annex), which led to important reforms in the management of our peacekeeping operations, the renewed confidence of Member States in United Nations peacekeeping has led to a surge in demand, with the result that the United Nations now has more missions on the ground than ever before. The majority of these are in Africa, where — I regret to say — developed countries are increasingly reluctant to contribute troops. As a result, our capacity is severely stretched.

112. **I appeal to Member States to do more to ensure that the United Nations has effective capacities for peacekeeping, commensurate with the demands that they place upon it.** In particular, I urge them to improve our deployment options by creating strategic reserves that can be deployed rapidly, within the framework of United Nations arrangements. United Nations capacity should not be developed in competition with the admirable efforts now being made by many regional organizations but in cooperation with them. Decisions by the European Union to create standby battle groups, for instance, and by the African Union to create African reserve capacities, are a very valuable complement to our own efforts. **Indeed, I believe the time is now ripe for a decisive move forward: the establishment of an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities that will enable the United Nations to work with relevant regional organizations in predictable and reliable partnerships.**

113. Since the rule of law is an essential element of lasting peace, United Nations peacekeepers and peacebuilders have a solemn responsibility to respect the law themselves, and especially to respect the rights of the people whom it is their mission to help. In the light of recent allegations of misconduct by United Nations administrators and peacekeepers, the United Nations system should reaffirm its commitment to respect, adhere to and implement international law, fundamental human rights and the basic standards of due process. I will work to strengthen the internal capacity of the United Nations to exercise oversight of peacekeeping operations, and I remind Member States of their obligation to prosecute any members of their national contingents who commit crimes or offences in the States where they are deployed. **I am especially troubled by instances in which United Nations peacekeepers are alleged to have sexually exploited minors and other vulnerable people, and I have enacted a policy of “zero tolerance” towards such offences that applies to all personnel engaged in United Nations operations. I strongly encourage Member States to do the same with respect to their national contingents.**

### **Peacebuilding**

114. Our record of success in mediating and implementing peace agreements is sadly blemished by some devastating failures. Indeed, several of the most violent and tragic episodes of the 1990s occurred after the negotiation of peace agreements — for instance in Angola in 1993 and in Rwanda in 1994. Roughly half of all countries that emerge from war lapse back into violence within five years. These two points drive home the message: if we are going to prevent conflict we must ensure that peace agreements are implemented in a sustained and sustainable manner. Yet at this very point there is a gaping hole in the United Nations institutional machinery: no part of the United Nations system effectively addresses the challenge of helping countries with the transition from war to lasting peace. **I therefore propose to Member States that they create an intergovernmental Peacebuilding Commission, as well as a Peacebuilding Support Office within the United Nations Secretariat, to achieve this end.**

115. A Peacebuilding Commission could perform the following functions: in the immediate aftermath of war, improve United Nations planning for sustained recovery, focusing on early efforts to establish the necessary institutions; help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities, in part by providing an overview of assessed, voluntary and standing funding mechanisms; improve the



coordination of the many post-conflict activities of the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies; provide a forum in which the United Nations, major bilateral donors, troop contributors, relevant regional actors and organizations, the international financial institutions and the national or transitional Government of the country concerned can share information about their respective post-conflict recovery strategies, in the interests of greater coherence; periodically review progress towards medium-term recovery goals; and extend the period of political attention to post-conflict recovery. I do not believe that such a body should have an early warning or monitoring function, but it would be valuable if Member States could at any stage make use of the Peacebuilding Commission's advice and could request assistance from a standing fund for peacebuilding to build their domestic institutions for reducing conflict, including through strengthening the rule-of-law institutions.

116. I believe that such a body would best combine efficiency with legitimacy if it were to report to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in sequence, depending on the phase of the conflict. Simultaneous reporting lines should be avoided because they will create duplication and confusion.

117. The Peacebuilding Commission would be most effective if its core membership comprised a sub-set of Security Council members, a similar number of Economic and Social Council members, leading troop contributors and the major donors to a standing fund for peacebuilding. In its country-specific operations, the Peacebuilding Commission should involve the national or transitional authorities, relevant regional actors and organizations, troop contributors, where applicable, and the major donors to the specific country.

118. The participation of international financial institutions is vital. I have started discussions with them to determine how best they can be involved, with due respect for their mandates and governing arrangements.

119. Once these discussions are completed, in advance of September 2005, I will present Member States a more fully developed proposal for their consideration.

#### **Small arms, light weapons and landmines**

120. The accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons continues to be a serious threat to peace, stability and sustainable development. Since the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,<sup>15</sup> awareness of the problem has grown and there have been various initiatives to tackle it. We must now begin to make a real difference by ensuring better enforcement of arms embargoes, strengthening programmes for the disarmament of ex-combatants and negotiating a legally binding international instrument to regulate the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons, as well as one to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering. **I urge Member States to agree on an instrument to regulate marking and tracing no later than next year's Review Conference on the Programme of Action, and to expedite negotiations on an instrument on illicit brokering.**

121. We must also continue our work to remove the scourge of landmines, which — along with other explosive remnants of war — still kill and maim innocent people in nearly half the world's countries and hold back entire communities from working their way out of poverty. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,<sup>16</sup>

supplemented by Amended Protocol II<sup>17</sup> to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>18</sup> now has 144 States parties and has made a real difference on the ground. Transfers of mines have virtually halted, large tracts of previously mined lands have been cleared and more than 31 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed. Yet not all States parties to the Convention have fully implemented it and there are vast stockpiles of mines in the arsenals of States that remain outside it. **I therefore urge States parties to implement their obligations in full, and call on those States that have not yet done so to accede to both the Convention and the Protocol at the earliest possible moment.**

## E. Use of force

122. Finally, an essential part of the consensus we seek must be agreement on when and how force can be used to defend international peace and security. In recent years, this issue has deeply divided Member States. They have disagreed about whether States have the right to use military force pre-emptively, to defend themselves against imminent threats; whether they have the right to use it preventively to defend themselves against latent or non-imminent threats; and whether they have the right — or perhaps the obligation — to use it protectively to rescue the citizens of other States from genocide or comparable crimes.

123. Agreement must be reached on these questions if the United Nations is to be — as it was intended to be — a forum for resolving differences rather than a mere stage for acting them out. And yet I believe the Charter of our Organization, as it stands, offers a good basis for the understanding that we need.

124. Imminent threats are fully covered by Article 51, which safeguards the inherent right of sovereign States to defend themselves against armed attack. Lawyers have long recognized that this covers an imminent attack as well as one that has already happened.

125. Where threats are not imminent but latent, the Charter gives full authority to the Security Council to use military force, including preventively, to preserve international peace and security. As to genocide, ethnic cleansing and other such crimes against humanity, are they not also threats to international peace and security, against which humanity should be able to look to the Security Council for protection?

126. The task is not to find alternatives to the Security Council as a source of authority but to make it work better. When considering whether to authorize or endorse the use of military force, the Council should come to a common view on how to weigh the seriousness of the threat; the proper purpose of the proposed military action; whether means short of the use of force might plausibly succeed in stopping the threat; whether the military option is proportional to the threat at hand; and whether there is a reasonable chance of success. By undertaking to make the case for military action in this way, the Council would add transparency to its deliberations and make its decisions more likely to be respected, by both Governments and world public opinion. **I therefore recommend that the Security Council adopt a resolution setting out these principles and expressing its intention to be guided by them when deciding whether to authorize or mandate the use of force.**

#### **IV. Freedom to live in dignity**

127. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States stated that they would spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. In so doing, they recognized that while freedom from want and fear are essential they are not enough. All human beings have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

128. The protection and promotion of the universal values of the rule of law, human rights and democracy are ends in themselves. They are also essential for a world of justice, opportunity and stability. No security agenda and no drive for development will be successful unless they are based on the sure foundation of respect for human dignity.

129. When it comes to laws on the books, no generation has inherited the riches that we have. We are blessed with what amounts to an international bill of human rights, among which are impressive norms to protect the weakest among us, including victims of conflict and persecution. We also enjoy a set of international rules on everything from trade to the law of the sea, from terrorism to the environment and from small arms to weapons of mass destruction. Through hard experience, we have become more conscious of the need to build human rights and rule-of-law provisions into peace agreements and ensure that they are implemented. And even harder experience has led us to grapple with the fact that no legal principle — not even sovereignty — should ever be allowed to shield genocide, crimes against humanity and mass human suffering.

130. But without implementation, our declarations ring hollow. Without action, our promises are meaningless. Villagers huddling in fear at the sound of Government bombing raids or the appearance of murderous militias on the horizon find no solace in the unimplemented words of the Geneva Conventions, to say nothing of the international community's solemn promises of "never again" when reflecting on the horrors of Rwanda a decade ago. Treaties prohibiting torture are cold comfort to prisoners abused by their captors, particularly if the international human rights machinery enables those responsible to hide behind friends in high places. A war-weary population infused with new hope after the signing of a peace agreement quickly reverts to despair when, instead of seeing tangible progress towards a Government under the rule of law, it sees war lords and gang leaders take power and become laws unto themselves. And solemn commitments to strengthen democracy at home, which all States made in the Millennium Declaration, remain empty words to those who have never voted for their rulers and who see no sign that things are changing.

131. To advance a vision of larger freedom, the United Nations and its Member States must strengthen the normative framework that has been so impressively advanced over the last six decades. Even more important, we must take concrete steps to reduce selective application, arbitrary enforcement and breach without consequence. Those steps would give new life to the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration.

132. Accordingly, I believe that decisions should be made in 2005 to help strengthen the rule of law internationally and nationally, enhance the stature and structure of the human rights machinery of the United Nations and more directly support efforts to institute and deepen democracy in nations around the globe. We

must also move towards embracing and acting on the “responsibility to protect” potential or actual victims of massive atrocities. The time has come for Governments to be held to account, both to their citizens and to each other, for respect of the dignity of the individual, to which they too often pay only lip service. We must move from an era of legislation to an era of implementation. Our declared principles and our common interests demand no less.

## A. Rule of law

133. I strongly believe that every nation that proclaims the rule of law at home must respect it abroad and that every nation that insists on it abroad must enforce it at home. Indeed, the Millennium Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of all nations to the rule of law as the all-important framework for advancing human security and prosperity. Yet in many places, Governments and individuals continue to violate the rule of law, often without consequences for them but with deadly consequences for the weak and the vulnerable. In other instances, those who make no pretence of being bound by the rule of law, such as armed groups and terrorists, are able to flout it because our peacemaking institutions and compliance mechanisms are weak. The rule of law as a mere concept is not enough. New laws must be put into place, old ones must be put into practice and our institutions must be better equipped to strengthen the rule of law.

134. Nowhere is the gap between rhetoric and reality — between declarations and deeds — so stark and so deadly as in the field of international humanitarian law. It cannot be right, when the international community is faced with genocide or massive human rights abuses, for the United Nations to stand by and let them unfold to the end, with disastrous consequences for many thousands of innocent people. I have drawn Member States’ attention to this issue over many years. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, I presented a five-point action plan to prevent genocide. The plan underscored the need for action to prevent armed conflict, effective measures to protect civilians, judicial steps to fight impunity, early warning through a Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, and swift and decisive action when genocide is happening or about to happen. Much more, however, needs to be done to prevent atrocities and to ensure that the international community acts promptly when faced with massive violations.

135. The International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and more recently the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, with its 16 members from all around the world, endorsed what they described as an “emerging norm that there is a collective responsibility to protect” (see A/59/565, para. 203). While I am well aware of the sensitivities involved in this issue, I strongly agree with this approach. **I believe that we must embrace the responsibility to protect, and, when necessary, we must act on it.** This responsibility lies, first and foremost, with each individual State, whose primary *raison d’être* and duty is to protect its population. But if national authorities are unable or unwilling to protect their citizens, then the responsibility shifts to the international community to use diplomatic, humanitarian and other methods to help protect the human rights and well-being of civilian populations. When such methods appear insufficient, the Security Council may out of necessity decide to take action under the Charter of the United Nations, including enforcement action, if so required. In this case, as in others, it should follow the principles set out in section III above.

136. Support for the rule of law must be strengthened by universal participation in multilateral conventions. At present, many States remain outside the multilateral conventional framework, in some cases preventing important conventions from entering into force. Five years ago, I provided special facilities for States to sign or ratify treaties of which I am the Depository. This proved a major success and treaty events have been held annually ever since. This year's event will focus on 31 multilateral treaties to help us respond to global challenges, with emphasis on human rights, refugees, terrorism, organized crime and the law of the sea. **I urge leaders especially to ratify and implement all treaties relating to the protection of civilians.**

137. Effective national legal and judicial institutions are essential to the success of all our efforts to help societies emerge from a violent past. Yet the United Nations, other international organizations and member Governments remain ill-equipped to provide support for such institutions. As I outlined in my report on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies (S/2004/616), we lack appropriate assessment and planning capacities, both in the field and at Headquarters. As a result, assistance is often piecemeal, slow and ill-suited to the ultimate goal. To help the United Nations realize its potential in this area, **I intend to create a dedicated Rule of Law Assistance Unit, drawing heavily on existing staff within the United Nations system, in the proposed Peacebuilding Support Office (see sect. V below) to assist national efforts to re-establish the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict societies.**

138. Justice is a vital component of the rule of law. Enormous progress has been made with the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the continuing work of the two ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the creation of a mixed tribunal in Sierra Leone and hopefully soon in Cambodia as well. Other important initiatives include commissions of experts and inquiry, such as those set up for Darfur, Timor-Leste and Côte d'Ivoire. Yet impunity continues to overshadow advances made in international humanitarian law, with tragic consequences in the form of flagrant and widespread human rights abuses continuing to this day. To increase avenues of redress for the victims of atrocities and deter further horrors, **I encourage Member States to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and other international or mixed war crimes tribunals, and to surrender accused persons to them upon request.**

139. The International Court of Justice lies at the centre of the international system for adjudicating disputes among States. In recent years, the Court's docket has grown significantly and a number of disputes have been settled, but resources remain scarce. **There is a need to consider means to strengthen the work of the Court.** I urge those States that have not yet done so to consider recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court — generally if possible or, failing that, at least in specific situations. I also urge all parties to bear in mind, and make greater use of, the Court's advisory powers. Measures should also be taken, with the cooperation of litigating States, to improve the Court's working methods and reduce the length of its proceedings.

## B. Human rights

140. Human rights are as fundamental to the poor as to the rich, and their protection is as important to the security and prosperity of the developed world as it is to that of the developing world. It would be a mistake to treat human rights as though there were a trade-off to be made between human rights and such goals as security or development. We only weaken our hand in fighting the horrors of extreme poverty or terrorism if, in our efforts to do so, we deny the very human rights that these scourges take away from citizens. Strategies based on the protection of human rights are vital for both our moral standing and the practical effectiveness of our actions.

141. Since its establishment, the United Nations has committed itself to striving for a world of peace and justice grounded in universal respect for human rights — a mission reaffirmed five years ago by the Millennium Declaration. But the system for protecting human rights at the international level is today under considerable strain. Change is needed if the United Nations is to sustain long-term, high-level engagement on human rights issues, across the range of the Organization's work.

142. Important change is already under way. Since the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations human rights machinery has expanded its protection work, technical assistance and support for national human rights institutions, so that international human rights standards are now better implemented in many countries. Last year, I launched "Action 2", a global programme designed to equip United Nations inter-agency country teams to work with Member States, at their request, to bolster their national human rights promotion and protection systems. **This programme urgently needs more resources and staff, including a stronger capacity to train country teams within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

143. But technical assistance and long-term institution-building are of little or no value where the basic principle of protection is being actively violated. A greater human rights field presence during times of crisis would provide timely information to United Nations bodies and, when necessary, draw urgent attention to situations requiring action.

144. The increasing frequency of the Security Council's invitations to the High Commissioner to brief it on specific situations shows that there is now a greater awareness of the need to take human rights into account in resolutions on peace and security. **The High Commissioner must play a more active role in the deliberations of the Security Council and of the proposed Peacebuilding Commission, with emphasis on the implementation of relevant provisions in Security Council resolutions.** Indeed, human rights must be incorporated into decision-making and discussion throughout the work of the Organization. The concept of "mainstreaming" human rights has gained greater attention in recent years, but it has still not been adequately reflected in key policy and resource decisions.

145. These observations all point to the need to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. While the role of the High Commissioner has expanded in the areas of crisis response, national human rights capacity-building, support for the Millennium Development Goals and conflict prevention, her Office remains woefully ill-equipped to respond to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community. **Member States' proclaimed**

**commitment to human rights must be matched by resources to strengthen the Office's ability to discharge its vital mandate. I have asked the High Commissioner to submit a plan of action within 60 days.**

146. The High Commissioner and her Office need to be involved in the whole spectrum of United Nations activities. But this can only work if the intergovernmental foundations of our human rights machinery are strong. In section V below, therefore, I shall make a proposal to transform the body which should be the central pillar of the United Nations human rights system — the Commission on Human Rights.

147. But the human rights treaty bodies, too, need to be much more effective and more responsive to violations of the rights that they are mandated to uphold. The treaty body system remains little known; is compromised by the failure of many States to report on time if at all, as well as the duplication of reporting requirements; and is weakened further by poor implementation of recommendations. **Harmonized guidelines on reporting to all treaty bodies should be finalized and implemented so that these bodies can function as a unified system.**

### C. Democracy

148. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>19</sup> adopted by the General Assembly in 1948, enunciated the essentials of democracy. Ever since its adoption, it has inspired constitution-making in every corner of the world, and it has contributed greatly to the eventual global acceptance of democracy as a universal value. The right to choose how they are ruled, and who rules them, must be the birthright of all people, and its universal achievement must be a central objective of an Organization devoted to the cause of larger freedom.

149. In the Millennium Declaration, every Member State pledged to strengthen its capacity to implement the principles and practices of democracy. That same year, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on promoting and consolidating democracy.<sup>20</sup> More than 100 countries have now signed the Warsaw Declaration of the Community of Democracies (see A/55/328, annex I), and in 2002 that Community endorsed the Seoul Plan of Action (see A/57/618, annex I), which listed the essential elements of representative democracy and set forth a range of measures to promote it. Regional organizations in many parts of the world have made democracy promotion a core component of their work, and the emergence of a strong community of global and regional civil society organizations that promote democratic governance is also encouraging. All of which reinforces the principle that democracy does not belong to any country or region but is a universal right.

150. However, commitments must be matched by performance and protecting democracy requires vigilance. Threats to democracy have by no means ceased to exist. As we have seen time and again, the transition to democracy is delicate and difficult and can suffer severe setbacks. The United Nations assists Member States by supporting emerging democracies with legal, technical and financial assistance and advice. For example, the United Nations has given concrete support for elections in more and more countries, often at decisive moments in their history — more than 20 in the last year alone, including Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq and Burundi. Similarly, the Organization's work to improve governance throughout the

developing world and to rebuild the rule of law and State institutions in war-torn countries is vital to ensuring that democracy takes root and endures.

151. The United Nations does more than any other single organization to promote and strengthen democratic institutions and practices around the world, but this fact is little known. The impact of our work is reduced by the way we disperse it among different parts of our bureaucracy. It is time to join up the dots. But there are significant gaps in our capacity in several critical areas. The Organization as a whole needs to be better coordinated and should mobilize resources more effectively. The United Nations should not restrict its role to norm-setting but should expand its help to its members to further broaden and deepen democratic trends throughout the world. **To that end, I support the creation of a democracy fund at the United Nations to provide assistance to countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democracy. Furthermore, I intend to ensure that our activities in this area are more closely coordinated by establishing a more explicit link between the democratic governance work of the United Nations Development Programme and the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs.**

152. In sections II to IV, I have outlined the interconnected challenges of advancing the cause of larger freedom in the new century. I have also indicated what I believe to be the essential elements of our collective response, including many areas where I believe the United Nations should be better equipped to make its proper contribution. In section V below, I shall focus in some detail on the specific reforms that I believe are needed if our Organization is to play its due part in shaping and implementing such a collective response across the whole range of global issues.

## V. Strengthening the United Nations

153. In the present report, I have argued that the principles and purposes of the United Nations, as set out in the Charter, remain as valid and relevant today as they were in 1945, and that the present moment is a precious opportunity to put them into practice. But while purposes should be firm and principles constant, practice and organization need to move with the times. If the United Nations is to be a useful instrument for its Member States and for the world's peoples, in responding to the challenges described in sections II to IV above it must be fully adapted to the needs and circumstances of the twenty-first century. It must be open not only to States but also to civil society, which at both the national and international levels plays an increasingly important role in world affairs. Its strength must be drawn from the breadth of its partnerships and from its ability to bring those partners into effective coalitions for change across the whole spectrum of issues on which action is required to advance the cause of larger freedom.

154. Clearly our Organization, as an organization, was built for a different era. Equally clearly, not all our current practices are adapted to the needs of today. That is why Heads of State and Government, in the Millennium Declaration, recognized the need to strengthen the United Nations to make it a more effective instrument for pursuing their priorities.

155. Indeed, ever since I took office as Secretary-General in 1997, one of my main priorities has been to reform the internal structures and culture of the United Nations to make the Organization more useful to its Member States and to the



world's peoples. And much has been achieved. Today, the Organization's structures are more streamlined, its working methods more effective and its various programmes better coordinated, and it has developed working partnerships in many areas with civil society and the private sector. In the economic and social spheres, the Millennium Development Goals now serve as a common policy framework for the entire United Nations system, and indeed for the broader international development community. United Nations peacekeeping missions today are much better designed than they used to be, and have a more integrated understanding of the many different tasks involved in preventing a recurrence of fighting and laying the foundations of lasting peace. And we have built strategic partnerships with a wide range of non-State actors who have an important contribution to make to global security, prosperity and freedom.

156. But many more changes are needed. As things stand now, different governance structures for the many parts of the system, overlapping mandates and mandates that reflect earlier rather than current priorities all combine to hobble our effectiveness. It is essential to give managers real authority so that they can fully align the system's activities with the goals endorsed by Member States — which I hope will be those outlined in the present report. We must also do more to professionalize the Secretariat and to hold its staff and management more rigorously accountable for their performance. And we need to ensure greater coherence, both among the various United Nations representatives and activities in each country and in the wider United Nations system, particularly in the economic and social fields.

157. But reform, if it is to be effective, cannot be confined to the executive branch. It is time to breathe new life also into the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations.

## **A. General Assembly**

158. As the Millennium Declaration reaffirmed, the General Assembly has a central position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. In particular, it has the authority to consider and approve the budget and it elects the members of the other deliberative bodies, including the Security Council. Member States are therefore rightly concerned about the decline in the Assembly's prestige and its diminishing contribution to the Organization's activities. This decline must be reversed, and that will only happen if the Assembly becomes more effective.

159. In recent years, the number of General Assembly resolutions approved by consensus has increased steadily. That would be good if it reflected a genuine unity of purpose among Member States in responding to global challenges. But unfortunately, consensus (often interpreted as requiring unanimity) has become an end in itself. It is sought first within each regional group and then at the level of the whole. This has not proved an effective way of reconciling the interests of Member States. Rather, it prompts the Assembly to retreat into generalities, abandoning any serious effort to take action. Such real debates as there are tend to focus on process rather than substance and many so-called decisions simply reflect the lowest common denominator of widely different opinions.

160. Member States agree, as they have for years, that the Assembly needs to streamline its procedures and structures so as to improve the deliberative process

and make it more effective. Many modest steps have been taken. Now, new proposals to “revitalize” the Assembly have been put forward by a wide range of Member States. **The General Assembly should now take bold measures to rationalize its work and speed up the deliberative process, notably by streamlining its agenda, its committee structure and its procedures for holding plenary debates and requesting reports, and by strengthening the role and authority of its President.**

161. At present, the General Assembly addresses a broad agenda covering a wide range of often overlapping issues. **It should give focus to its substantive agenda by concentrating on addressing the major substantive issues of the day, such as international migration and the long-debated comprehensive convention on terrorism.**

162. It should also engage much more actively with civil society — reflecting the fact that, after a decade of rapidly increasing interaction, civil society is now involved in most United Nations activities. Indeed, the goals of the United Nations can only be achieved if civil society and Governments are fully engaged. The Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations, which I appointed in 2003, made many useful recommendations for improving our work with civil society, and I have commended its report (see A/58/817 and Corr.1) to the General Assembly together with my views. **The General Assembly should act on these recommendations and establish mechanisms enabling it to engage fully and systematically with civil society.**

163. The Assembly also needs to review its committee structure, the way committees function, the oversight it provides to them and their outputs. The General Assembly needs a mechanism to review the decisions of its committees so as to avoid overloading the organization with unfunded mandates and continuing the current problem of micromanagement of the budget and the allocation of posts within the Secretariat. If the General Assembly cannot solve these problems it will not have the focus and flexibility it needs to serve its members effectively.

164. It should be clear that none of this will happen unless Member States take a serious interest in the Assembly at the highest level and insist that their representatives engage in its debates with a view to achieving real and positive results. If they fail to do this the Assembly’s performance will continue to disappoint them and they should not be surprised.

## **B. The Councils**

165. Its founders endowed the United Nations with three Councils, each having major responsibilities in its own area: the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council. Over time, the division of responsibilities between them has become less and less balanced: the Security Council has increasingly asserted its authority and, especially since the end of the cold war, has enjoyed greater unity of purpose among its permanent members but has seen that authority questioned on the grounds that its composition is anachronistic or insufficiently representative; the Economic and Social Council has been too often relegated to the margins of global economic and social governance; and the Trusteeship Council, having successfully carried out its functions, is now reduced to a purely formal existence.

166. I believe we need to restore the balance, with three Councils covering respectively, (a) international peace and security, (b) economic and social issues, and (c) human rights, the promotion of which has been one of the purposes of the Organization from its beginnings but now clearly requires more effective operational structures. These Councils together should have the task of driving forward the agenda that emerges from summit and other conferences of Member States, and should be the global forms in which the issues of security, development and justice can be properly addressed. The first two Councils, of course, already exist but need to be strengthened. The third requires a far-reaching overhaul and upgrading of our existing human rights machinery.

### **Security Council**

167. By adhering to the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States recognize that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agree to be bound by its decisions. It is therefore of vital importance, not only to the Organization but to the world, that the Council should be equipped to carry out this responsibility and that its decisions should command worldwide respect.

168. In the Millennium Declaration, all States resolved to intensify their efforts “to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects” (see General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 30). This reflected the view, long held by the majority, that a change in the Council’s composition is needed to make it more broadly representative of the international community as a whole, as well as of the geopolitical realities of today, and thereby more legitimate in the eyes of the world. Its working methods also need to be made more efficient and transparent. The Council must be not only more representative but also more able and willing to take action when action is needed. Reconciling these two imperatives is the hard test that any reform proposal must pass.

169. Two years ago, I declared that in my view no reform of the United Nations would be complete without reform of the Security Council. That is still my belief. The Security Council must be broadly representative of the realities of power in today’s world. I therefore support the position set out in the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (A/59/565) concerning the reforms of the Security Council, namely:

(a) They should, in honouring Article 23 of the Charter, increase the involvement in decision-making of those who contribute most to the United Nations financially, militarily and diplomatically, specifically in terms of contributions to United Nations assessed budgets, participation in mandated peace operations, contributions to voluntary activities of the United Nations in the areas of security and development, and diplomatic activities in support of United Nations objectives and mandates. Among developed countries, achieving or making substantial progress towards the internationally agreed level of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA should be considered an important criterion of contribution;

(b) They should bring into the decision-making process countries more representative of the broader membership, especially of the developing world;

(c) They should not impair the effectiveness of the Security Council;

(d) They should increase the democratic and accountable nature of the body.

170. I urge Member States to consider the two options, models A and B, proposed in that report (see box 5), or any other viable proposals in terms of size and balance that have emerged on the basis of either model. Member States should agree to take a decision on this important issue before the summit in September 2005. It would be very preferable for Member States to take this vital decision by consensus, but if they are unable to reach consensus this must not become an excuse for postponing action.

### **Box 5** **Security Council reform: models A and B**

Model A provides for six new permanent seats, with no veto being created, and three new two-year term non-permanent seats, divided among the major regional areas as follows:

<i>Regional area</i>	<i>No. of States</i>	<i>Permanent seats (continuing)</i>	<i>Proposed new permanent seats</i>	<i>Proposed two-year seats (non-renewable)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Africa	53	0	2	4	6
Asia and Pacific	56	1	2	3	6
Europe	47	3	1	2	6
Americas	35	1	1	4	6
<b>Totals model A</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>

Model B provides for no new permanent seats but creates a new category of eight four-year renewable-term seats and one new two-year non-permanent (and non-renewable) seat, divided among the major regional areas as follows:

<i>Regional area</i>	<i>No. of States</i>	<i>Permanent seats (continuing)</i>	<i>Proposed four-year renewable seats</i>	<i>Proposed two-year seats (non-renewable)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Africa	53	0	2	4	6
Asia and Pacific	56	1	2	3	6
Europe	47	3	2	1	6
Americas	35	1	2	3	6
<b>Totals model B</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>

### **Economic and Social Council**

171. The Charter of the United Nations gives the Economic and Social Council a range of important functions that involve coordination, policy review and policy

dialogue. Most of these seem more critical than ever in this age of globalization, in which a comprehensive United Nations development agenda has emerged from the summits and conferences of the 1990s. More than ever, the United Nations needs to be able to develop and implement policies in this area in a coherent manner. The functions of the Council are generally thought to be uniquely relevant to these challenges, but it has not as yet done justice to them.

172. In 1945, the framers of the Charter did not give the Economic and Social Council enforcement powers. Having agreed at Bretton Woods in the previous year to create powerful international financial institutions and expecting that these would be complemented by a world trade organization in addition to the various specialized agencies, they clearly intended that international economic decision-making would be decentralized. But this only makes the Council's potential role as coordinator, convener, forum for policy dialogue and forger of consensus the more important. It is the only organ of the United Nations explicitly mandated by the Charter to coordinate the activities of the specialized agencies and to consult with non-governmental organizations. And it has a network of functional and regional commissions operating under its aegis which are increasingly focused on the implementation of development goals.

173. The Economic and Social Council has put these assets to good use in the recent years, building bridges through an annual special high-level meeting with the trade and financial institutions, for instance, and establishing a unique Information and Communications Technology Task Force. It has also contributed to linking the issues of security and development by establishing country-specific groups.

174. These initiatives have helped to promote greater coherence and coordination among various actors, but there are still visible gaps to be addressed.

175. First, there is an increasing need to integrate, coordinate and review the implementation of the United Nations development agenda that has emerged from the world conferences and summits. **To this end, the Economic and Social Council should hold annual ministerial-level assessments of progress towards agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.** These assessments could be based on peer reviews of progress reports prepared by member States, with support from United Nations agencies and the regional commissions.

176. Second, there is a need to review trends in international development cooperation, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different actors and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations system. **To address this gap, the Economic and Social Council should serve as a high-level development cooperation forum. Such a forum could be held biennially by transforming the high-level segment of the Council.**

177. Third, there is a need to address economic and social challenges, threats and crises as and when they occur. **To this end, the Council should convene timely meetings, as required, to assess threats to development, such as famines, epidemics and major natural disasters, and to promote coordinated responses to them.**

178. Fourth, there is a need to systematically monitor and deal with the economic and social dimensions of conflicts. The Economic and Social Council has tried to fulfil this need by establishing country-specific ad hoc advisory groups. But given

the scale and the challenge of long-term recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation, ad hoc arrangements are not enough. **The Economic and Social Council should institutionalize its work in post-conflict management by working with the proposed Peacebuilding Commission. It should also reinforce its links with the Security Council in order to promote structural prevention.**

179. Finally, while the normative and strategy-setting role of the Economic and Social Council is clearly different from the managerial and policy-making role played by the governing bodies of the various international institutions, I would hope that, as the Council starts to assert leadership in driving a global development agenda it will be able to provide direction for the efforts of the various intergovernmental bodies in this area throughout the United Nations system.

180. Implementing all these recommendations would require the Economic and Social Council to function with a new and more flexible structure, not necessarily restricted by the current annual calendar of “segments” and “substantive session”. In addition, the Council needs an effective, efficient and representative intergovernmental mechanism for engaging its counterparts in the institutions dealing with finance and trade. This could either be achieved by expanding its Bureau or by establishing an Executive Committee with a regionally balanced composition.

#### **Proposed Human Rights Council**

181. The Commission on Human Rights has given the international community a universal human rights framework, comprising the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the two International Covenants<sup>21</sup> and other core human rights treaties. During its annual session, the Commission draws public attention to human rights issues and debates, provides a forum for the development of United Nations human rights policy and establishes a unique system of independent and expert special procedures to observe and analyse human rights compliance by theme and by country. The Commission’s close engagement with hundreds of civil society organizations provides an opportunity for working with civil society that does not exist elsewhere.

182. Yet the Commission’s capacity to perform its tasks has been increasingly undermined by its declining credibility and professionalism. In particular, States have sought membership of the Commission not to strengthen human rights but to protect themselves against criticism or to criticize others. As a result, a credibility deficit has developed, which casts a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole.

**183. If the United Nations is to meet the expectations of men and women everywhere — and indeed, if the Organization is to take the cause of human rights as seriously as those of security and development — then Member States should agree to replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller standing Human Rights Council.** Member States would need to decide if they want the Human Rights Council to be a principal organ of the United Nations or a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, but in either case its members would be elected directly by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. The creation of the Council would accord human rights a more authoritative position, corresponding to the primacy of human rights in the Charter of the United Nations. Member States should determine the composition of the

Council and the term of office of its members. Those elected to the Council should undertake to abide by the highest human rights standards.

### C. The Secretariat

184. A capable and effective Secretariat is indispensable to the work of the United Nations. As the needs of the Organization have changed, so too must the Secretariat. That is why in 1997 I launched a package of structural reforms for the Secretariat and followed up with a further set of managerial and technical improvements in 2002, aimed at giving the Organization a more focused work programme and a simpler system of planning and budgeting and enabling the Secretariat to provide better service.

185. I am glad that the General Assembly has given broad support to these changes and I believe they have improved our ability to do the job the world expects of us. Thanks to changes in budgeting, procurement, human resources management and the way peacekeeping missions are supported, we now do business in a new and different way. But these reforms do not go far enough. If the United Nations is to be truly effective the Secretariat will have to be completely transformed.

186. Those with the power to make decisions — essentially the General Assembly and the Security Council — must take care, when they assign mandates to the Secretariat, that they also provide resources adequate for the task. In return, management must be made more accountable and the capacity of intergovernmental bodies to oversee it must be strengthened. The Secretary-General and his or her managers must be given the discretion, the means, the authority and the expert assistance that they need to manage an organization which is expected to meet fast-changing operational needs in many different parts of the world. Similarly, Member States must have the oversight tools that they need to hold the Secretary-General truly accountable for his/her strategy and leadership.

187. Member States also have a central role to play in ensuring that the Organization's mandates stay current. **I therefore ask the General Assembly to review all mandates older than five years to see whether the activities concerned are still genuinely needed or whether the resources assigned to them can be reallocated in response to new and emerging challenges.**

188. Today's United Nations staff must be: (a) aligned with the new substantive challenges of the twenty-first century; (b) empowered to manage complex global operations; and (c) held accountable.

189. First, I am taking steps to realign the Secretariat's structure to match the priorities outlined in the present report. This will entail creating a peacebuilding support office and strengthening support both for mediation (my "good offices" function) and for democracy and the rule of law. In addition, I intend to appoint a Scientific Adviser to the Secretary-General, who will provide strategic forward-looking scientific advice on policy matters, mobilizing scientific and technological expertise within the United Nations system and from the broader scientific and academic community.

190. Achieving real progress in new areas requires staff with the skills and experience to address new challenges. It also requires a renewed effort to secure "the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity", as required by

Article 101.3 of the Charter of the United Nations, while “recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible” and, we must add today, ensuring a just balance between men and women. While existing staff must have reasonable opportunities to develop within the Organization we cannot continue to rely on the same pool of people to address all our new needs. **I therefore request the General Assembly to provide me with the authority and resources to pursue a one-time staff buyout so as to refresh and realign the staff to meet current needs.**

191. Second, the Secretariat must be empowered to do its work. The High-level Panel suggested that I appoint a second Deputy Secretary-General to improve the decision-making process on peace and security. Instead, I have decided to create a cabinet-style decision-making mechanism (with stronger executive powers than the present Senior Management Group) to improve both policy and management. It will be supported by a small cabinet secretariat to ensure the preparation and follow-up of decision making. In this way, I expect to be able to ensure more focused, orderly and accountable decision-making. This should help but will not by itself be enough to ensure the effective management of the worldwide operations of such a complex Organization. The Secretary-General, as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, must be given a higher level of managerial authority and flexibility. He or she needs to have the ability to adjust the staffing table as necessary and without undue constraint. And our administrative system needs to be thoroughly modernized. **Therefore, I ask Member States to work with me to undertake a comprehensive review of the budget and human resources rules under which we operate.**

192. Third, we must continue to improve the transparency and accountability of the Secretariat. The General Assembly has taken an important step towards greater transparency by making internal audits available to Member States upon request. I am in the process of identifying other categories of information that could be made available routinely. I am establishing a Management Performance Board to ensure that senior officials are held accountable for their actions and the results their units achieve. A number of other internal improvements are under way. These aim to align our management systems and human resource policies with the best practices of other global public and commercial organizations. **In order to further improve accountability and oversight I have proposed that the General Assembly commission a comprehensive review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services with a view to strengthening its independence and authority as well as its expertise and capacity.** I hope the Assembly will act promptly on this proposal.

#### **D. System coherence**

193. Beyond the Secretariat, the United Nations system of funds, programmes and specialized agencies brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources, encompassing the full spectrum of global issues. And what is true for the United Nations proper is valid also for the other parts of the system. All must be clearly accountable to both their governing bodies and the people they serve.

194. Over the past few decades, responding to steadily growing demand, the system has seen a welcome expansion in its membership as well as in the scale and scope of its activities. One unfortunate side-effect of this has been that there is now often



significant duplication of mandates and actions between different bodies within the system. Another has been significant shortfalls in necessary funding.

195. To try to address some of these problems I have launched two sets of major reforms during my time as Secretary-General. First, in my 1997 report, entitled “Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform” (A/51/950), I introduced several measures, including notably the creation of executive committees, to strengthen the leadership capacity of the Secretariat and provide better coordination in the humanitarian and development fields. Then in 2002, in a second report, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change” (A/57/387 and Corr.1), I set out further steps aimed more directly at improving our work at country level, particularly by strengthening the resident coordinator system. I have also given more authority to my special representatives and instituted a system of integrated peace operations.

196. These efforts have paid significant dividends by enabling the various agencies to work more closely together at the country level, both with each other and with other partners, such as the World Bank. Nevertheless, the United Nations system as a whole is still not delivering services in the coherent, effective way that the world’s citizens need and deserve.

197. Part of the problem is clearly related to the structural constraints we face. In the medium and longer term, we will need to consider much more radical reforms to address these. Such reforms could include grouping the various agencies, funds and programmes into tightly managed entities, dealing respectively with development, the environment and humanitarian action. And this regrouping might involve eliminating or merging those funds, programmes and agencies which have complementary or overlapping mandates and expertise.

198. Meanwhile, there are more immediate actions that we can and should take now. In particular, I am introducing further improvements in the coordination of the United Nations system presence and performance at the country level, based on a simple principle: at every stage of United Nations activities, the senior United Nations official present in any given country — special representative, resident coordinator or humanitarian coordinator — should have the authority and resources necessary to manage an integrated United Nations mission or “country presence” so that the United Nations can truly function as one integrated entity.

#### **The United Nations at the country level**

199. In every country where the United Nations has a development presence, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should organize their technical efforts to help that country develop and implement the national Millennium Development Goals-based poverty reduction strategies set out in section II above. While the management of the resident coordinator system should remain with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is our principal development institution, the broader United Nations Development Group (UNDG) should guide resident United Nations country teams, led by properly resourced and empowered resident coordinators. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework should identify a clear set of strategic objectives and define the specific assistance that each United Nations entity must give to help our national partners achieve the Goals and meet their broader development needs. Governments and the United Nations itself can then use this “results matrix” to monitor and assess the

performance of the United Nations system at the country level and hold its representatives accountable.

*Strengthening the resident coordinator system*

200. To drive this process, I shall further strengthen the role of my resident coordinators, giving them more authority so that they can coordinate better. But the governing boards of different agencies also need to provide guidance to support this process. **I call on Member States to coordinate their representatives on these governing boards so as to make sure that they pursue a coherent policy in assigning mandates and allocating resources throughout the system.** I also urge Member States to increase core funding and reduce the proportion of earmarked funds so as to help increase coherence in the system. As mentioned above, I hope a reinvigorated Economic and Social Council will give overall direction to this new coherence.

201. In recent years, I have been gratified by the benefits that the United Nations system has derived from working closely with independent scientists, policy makers and political leaders around the world. This is particularly true in the field of development, where we need constantly to integrate the latest advances in science and technology into the practice of our organizations and programmes. In 2005, to consolidate the links between United Nations development efforts and the world's leading minds in relevant fields I intend to launch a Council of Development Advisers. This Council, working in close cooperation with the Secretary-General's Scientific Adviser mentioned above, will comprise some two dozen people, who should represent a cross-section of leading world scientists, policy-making officials and political leaders. They will advise both me and UNDG on the best ways to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, will issue periodic reports and commentaries, and will liaise with scientific, civil society and other bodies with relevant expertise. Their advice will also be available to the Economic and Social Council.

**Humanitarian response system**

202. From the Indian Ocean tsunami to the crises in Darfur and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, recent months have provided eloquent testimony to the ever-growing range and scale of demands being placed on the international humanitarian response system. With leadership and coordination from the United Nations, the system that comprises the humanitarian community of agencies and non-governmental organizations has been performing reasonably well, under the circumstances. Expert humanitarian workers get deployed and large quantities of food and other relief items are now provided to victims of war and natural disasters anywhere in the world within a matter of days. There is less overlap between agencies and a more effective coordination between non-governmental and intergovernmental actors on the ground.

203. The system was able to provide massive relief to all tsunami-affected communities in the Indian Ocean, against all odds, in the course of a few weeks. Yet at the same time, assistance to displaced people in Darfur is falling well short of what had been pledged, while major crises, such as the one in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than 3.8 million people have been killed and 2.3 million displaced since 1997, remain woefully underfunded. Humanitarian response

needs to become more predictable in all emergencies. To achieve that we need to make rapid progress on three fronts.

204. First, the humanitarian system needs to have a more predictable response capacity in areas where now there too often are gaps, ranging from the provision of water and sanitation to shelter and camp management. When crises are already under way there is a need to operate quickly and flexibly. This is particularly the case in complex emergencies, during which humanitarian requirements are linked to the dynamics of conflict and circumstances can change rapidly. In general, it is the relevant United Nations country team, under the leadership of the humanitarian coordinator, which is best placed to identify the opportunities and constraints. However, there is a clear need to strengthen field coordination structures, notably by better preparing and equipping United Nations country teams, strengthening the leadership of the humanitarian coordinator and ensuring that sufficient and flexible resources are immediately available to support these field structures.

205. Second, we need predictable funding to meet the needs of vulnerable communities. We need to ensure that the generous outpouring of global support to the tsunami crisis becomes the rule, not the exception. This means building on the humanitarian community's work with the donor community and more systematically engaging with new donor Governments and the private sector. Ensuring consistent and timely responses to crises requires both that pledges be rapidly converted into tangible resources and that more predictable and flexible funding be made available for humanitarian operations, particularly in the initial emergency phases.

206. Third, we need to have a predictable right of access and guaranteed security for our humanitarian workers and operations in the field. Humanitarian personnel are too often blocked from providing assistance because government forces or armed groups prevent them from doing their jobs. Elsewhere, terrorists attack our unarmed aid workers and paralyse operations, in violation of basic international law.

207. I am working with my Emergency Relief Coordinator to address these issues and to come up with concrete recommendations for strengthened action. A comprehensive humanitarian response review is currently under way and its findings will be made available in June 2005. **I expect them to include a series of proposals for new standby arrangements for personnel and equipment to ensure the capacity to respond immediately to major disasters and other emergencies, if need be in several areas at the same time.** I shall work with Member States and agencies to ensure that these proposals, once finalized, will be implemented without delay.

208. To enable immediate response to sudden disasters or large unmet needs in neglected emergencies, we need to consider the adequacy of the financial tools at our disposal. **We should examine whether the existing Central Emergency Revolving Fund should be upgraded or a new funding mechanism should be established.** In the latter case, the proposal put forward by donors to set up a \$1 billion voluntary fund deserves serious consideration.

209. Special attention is due to the growing problem of internally displaced persons. Unlike refugees, who have crossed an international border, those displaced within their own countries by violence and war are not protected by established minimum standards.

210. Yet this acutely vulnerable group now totals roughly 25 million, more than double the estimated number of refugees. **I urge Member States to accept the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2) prepared by my Special Representative as the basic international norm for protection of such persons, and to commit themselves to promote the adoption of these principles through national legislation.** Unlike refugees, who are looked after by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, internally displaced persons and their needs often fall into the cracks between different humanitarian bodies. Recent steps have been taken to ensure that agencies provide assistance to such groups within their respective areas of competence, on a collaborative basis. But, as we have seen most recently in Darfur, more is needed. **I intend to strengthen further the inter-agency response to the needs of internally displaced persons, under the global leadership of my Emergency Relief Coordinator, and at the country level through the humanitarian coordinator system. I trust that Member States will support me in this effort.**

211. Finally, I intend to call more systematically on Member States in general and the Security Council in particular to address the unacceptable humanitarian access blockages that we are too often facing. **In order to save unnecessary pain and suffering it is essential to protect humanitarian space and ensure that humanitarian actors have safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations.** I shall also take measures, through the newly established Secretariat Department of Safety and Security, to make our risk management system more robust so that humanitarian workers can undertake their life-saving operations in high risk areas without unduly endangering their own lives.

#### **Governance of the global environment**

212. Given the number and complexity of international agreements and agencies that cover it, the environment poses particular challenges to coherence. There are now more than 400 regional and universal multilateral environmental treaties in force, covering a broad range of environmental issues, including biodiversity, climate change and desertification. The sectoral character of these legal instruments and the fragmented machinery for monitoring their implementation make it harder to mount effective responses across the board. There is a clear need to streamline and consolidate our efforts to follow up and implement these treaties. Already in 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, emphasized the need for a more coherent institutional framework of international environmental governance, with better coordination and monitoring. **It is now high time to consider a more integrated structure for environmental standard-setting, scientific discussion and monitoring treaty compliance. This should be built on existing institutions, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the treaty bodies and specialized agencies. Meanwhile, environmental activities at the country level should benefit from improved synergies, on both normative and operational aspects, between United Nations agencies, making optimal use of their comparative advantages, so that we have an integrated approach to sustainable development, in which both halves of that term are given their due weight.**

## E. Regional organizations

213. A considerable number of regional and subregional organizations are now active around the world, making important contributions to the stability and prosperity of their members, as well as of the broader international system. The United Nations and regional organizations should play complementary roles in facing the challenges to international peace and security. **In this connection, donor countries should pay particular attention to the need for a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union.** To improve coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, I intend to introduce memoranda of understanding between the United Nations and individual organizations, governing the sharing of information, expertise and resources, as appropriate in each case. For regional organizations that have a conflict prevention or peacekeeping capacity, these memoranda of understanding could place those capacities within the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System.

214. I also intend to invite regional organizations to participate in meetings of United Nations system coordinating bodies, when issues in which they have a particular interest are discussed.

215. **The rules of the United Nations peacekeeping budget should be amended to give the United Nations the option, in very exceptional circumstances, to use assessed contributions to finance regional operations authorized by the Security Council, or the participation of regional organizations in multi-pillar peace operations under the overall United Nations umbrella.**

## F. Updating the Charter of the United Nations

216. As I remarked at the beginning of section V, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations remain fully valid, and the Charter itself, in the main, continues to provide a solid foundation for all our work. It is still essentially the document that was drafted at the San Francisco Conference six decades ago. Much has been achieved by changes in practice without the need for amendment. In fact, the Charter has been amended only twice during the history of the Organization — for the purpose of enlarging the membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

217. Nonetheless, the United Nations now operates in a radically different world from that of 1945, and the Charter should reflect the realities of today. **In particular, it is high time to eliminate the anachronistic “enemy” clauses in Articles 53 and 107 of the Charter.**

218. The Trusteeship Council played a vital role in raising standards of administration in the trust territories and promoting the wider process of decolonization. But its work is long since complete. **Chapter XIII, “The Trusteeship Council”, should be deleted from the Charter.**

219. **For similar reasons, Article 47 on The Military Staff Committee should be deleted, as should all references to this Committee in Articles 26, 45 and 46.**

## VI. Conclusion: our opportunity and our challenge

220. At no time in human history have the fates of every woman, man and child been so intertwined across the globe. We are united both by moral imperatives and by objective interests. We can build a world in larger freedom — but to do it we must find common ground and sustain collective action. This task can seem daunting, and it is easy to descend into generalities or stray into areas of such deep disagreement that differences are reinforced not overcome.

221. Yet it is for us to decide whether this moment of uncertainty presages wider conflict, deepening inequality and the erosion of the rule of law, or is used to renew our common institutions for peace, prosperity and human rights. Now is the time to act. Enough words and good intentions: in the present report I have largely limited myself to the decisions that I believe are both needed and achievable in 2005. In the annex, I have listed a number of specific items for consideration by Heads of State and Government.

222. To make the right choice, leaders will need what United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose vision was so central to the founding of the United Nations, called “the courage to fulfil [their] responsibilities in an admittedly imperfect world”.<sup>22</sup> They will also need the wisdom to transcend their differences. Given firm, clear-sighted leadership, both within States and among them, I am confident that they can. I am also certain that they must. What I have called for here is possible. It is within reach. From pragmatic beginnings could emerge a visionary change of direction in our world. That is our opportunity and our challenge.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>2</sup> *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 05.III.B.4); see also <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org>.

<sup>3</sup> *A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All* (Geneva, International Labour Organization, 2004).

<sup>4</sup> *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 04.III.B.4).

<sup>5</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1522, No. 26369.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>8</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

<sup>9</sup> See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 44.

<sup>10</sup> FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

<sup>11</sup> A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

- <sup>13</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27)*, appendix I.
- <sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
- <sup>15</sup> See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001 (A/CONF. 192/15)*, chap. IV.
- <sup>16</sup> CD/1478.
- <sup>17</sup> CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B.
- <sup>18</sup> See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.
- <sup>19</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
- <sup>20</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/96.
- <sup>21</sup> General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI).
- <sup>22</sup> See message of the United States President to Congress dated 6 January 1945.

## Annex

### For decision by Heads of State and Government

1. The Summit will be a unique opportunity for the world's leaders to consider a broad range of issues and make decisions that will improve the lives of people around the world significantly. This is a major undertaking — one worthy of the world's leaders collectively assembled.
2. In the twenty-first century, all States and their collective institutions must advance the cause of larger freedom — by ensuring freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity. In an increasingly interconnected world, progress in the areas of development, security and human rights must go hand in hand. There will be no development without security and no security without development. And both development and security also depend on respect for human rights and the rule of law.
3. No State can stand wholly alone in today's world. We all share responsibility for each other's development and security. Collective strategies, collective institutions and collective action are indispensable.
4. Heads of State and Government must therefore agree on the nature of the threats and opportunities before us and take decisive action.

#### I. Freedom from want

5. In order to reduce poverty and promote global prosperity for all, I urge Heads of State and Government to:

(a) Reaffirm, and commit themselves to implementing, the development consensus based on mutual responsibility and accountability agreed in 2002 at the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Consistent with that historic compact, centred on the Millennium Development Goals:

(i) Developing countries should recommit themselves to taking primary responsibility for their own development by strengthening governance, combating corruption and putting in place the policies and investments to drive private-sector led growth and maximize domestic resources to fund national development strategies;

(ii) Developed countries should undertake to support these efforts through increased development assistance, a more development-oriented trade system and wider and deeper debt relief;

(b) Recognize the special needs of Africa and reaffirm the solemn commitments made to address those needs on an urgent basis;

(c) Decide that each developing country with extreme poverty should by 2006 adopt and begin to implement a comprehensive national strategy bold enough to meet the Millennium Development Goals targets for 2015;



(d) Undertake to ensure that developed countries that have not already done so establish timetables to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by no later than 2015, starting with significant increases no later than 2006 and reaching at least 0.5 per cent by 2009;

(e) Decide that debt sustainability should be redefined as the level of debt that allows a country to both achieve the Millennium Development Goals and reach 2015 without an increase in its debt ratios; that, for most HIPC countries, this will require exclusively grant-based finance and 100 per cent debt cancellation, while for many heavily indebted non-HIPC and middle-income countries it will require significantly more debt reduction than has yet been on offer; and that additional debt cancellation should be achieved without reducing the resources available to other developing countries and without jeopardizing the long-term financial viability of international financial institutions;

(f) Complete the World Trade Organization Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations no later than 2006, with full commitment to realizing its development focus, and as a first step provide immediate duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports from the least developed countries;

(g) Decide to launch, in 2005, an International Financial Facility to support an immediate front-loading of official development assistance, underpinned by commitments to achieving the 0.7 per cent ODA target no later than 2015; and to consider other innovative sources of finance for development to supplement the Facility in the longer term;

(h) Decide to launch a series of “quick win” initiatives so as to realize major immediate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals through such measures as the free distribution of malaria bednets and effective antimalaria medicines, the expansion of home-grown school meals programmes using locally produced foods and the elimination of user fees for primary education and health services;

(i) Ensure that the international community urgently provides the resources needed for an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS, as identified by UNAIDS and its partners, and full funding for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;

(j) Reaffirm gender equality and the need to overcome pervasive gender bias by increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls, ensuring secure tenure of property to women, ensuring access to reproductive health services, promoting equal access to labour markets, providing opportunity for greater representation in government decision-making bodies, and supporting direct interventions to protect women from violence;

(k) Recognize the need for significantly increased international support for scientific research and development to address the special needs of the poor in the areas of health, agriculture, natural resource and environmental management, energy and climate;

(l) Ensure concerted global action to mitigate climate change, including through technological innovation, and therefore resolve to develop a more inclusive international framework for climate change beyond 2012, with broader participation

by all major emitters and both developing and developed countries, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

(m) Resolve to establish a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards, building on existing national and regional capacity;

(n) Decide that, starting in 2005, developing countries that put forward sound, transparent and accountable national strategies and require increased development assistance should receive a sufficient increase in aid, of sufficient quality and arriving with sufficient speed to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

## **II. Freedom from fear**

6. In order to provide effective collective security in the twenty-first century, I urge Heads of State and Government to pledge concerted action against the whole range of threats to international peace and security, and in particular to:

(a) Affirm and commit themselves to implementing a new security consensus based on the recognition that threats are interlinked, that development, security and human rights are mutually interdependent, that no State can protect itself acting entirely alone and that all States need an equitable, efficient and effective collective security system; and therefore commit themselves to agreeing on, and implementing, comprehensive strategies for confronting the whole range of threats, from international war through weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, State collapse and civil conflict to deadly infectious disease, extreme poverty and the destruction of the environment;

(b) Pledge full compliance with all articles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention in order to further strengthen the multilateral framework for non-proliferation and disarmament, and in particular:

(i) Resolve to bring to an early conclusion negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty;

(ii) Reaffirm their commitment to a moratorium on nuclear test explosions and to the objective of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty;

(iii) Resolve to adopt the Model Additional Protocol as the norm for verifying compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(iv) Commit themselves to expediting agreement on alternatives, consistent with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons principles of the right to peaceful uses and the obligations for non-proliferation, to the acquisition of domestic uranium enrichment and plutonium separation facilities;

(v) Commit themselves to further strengthening the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention;

(vi) Urge all chemical-weapon States to expedite the scheduled destruction of chemical-weapon stockpiles;

(c) Develop legally binding international instruments to regulate the marking, tracing and illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons; and ensure the effective monitoring and enforcement of United Nations arms embargoes;

(d) Affirm that no cause or grievance, no matter how legitimate, justifies the targeting and deliberate killing of civilians and non-combatants; and declare that any action that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, constitutes an act of terrorism;

(e) Resolve to implement the comprehensive United Nations counter-terrorism strategy presented by the Secretary-General to dissuade people from resorting to terrorism or supporting it; deny terrorists access to funds and materials; deter States from sponsoring terrorism; develop State capacity to defeat terrorism; and defend human rights;

(f) Resolve to accede to all 12 international conventions against terrorism; and instruct their representatives to:

(i) Conclude a convention on nuclear terrorism as a matter of urgency;

(ii) Conclude a comprehensive convention on terrorism before the end of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;

(g) Commit themselves to acceding, as soon as possible, to all relevant international conventions on organized crime and corruption, and take all necessary steps to implement them effectively, including by incorporating the provisions of those conventions into national legislation and strengthening criminal justice systems;

(h) Request the Security Council to adopt a resolution on the use of force that sets out principles for the use of force and expresses its intention to be guided by them when deciding whether to authorize or mandate the use of force; such principles should include: a reaffirmation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the use of force, including those of Article 51; a reaffirmation of the central role of the Security Council in the area of peace and security; a reaffirmation of the right of the Security Council to use military force, including preventively, to preserve international peace and security, including in cases of genocide, ethnic cleansing and other such crimes against humanity; and the need to consider — when contemplating whether to authorize or endorse the use of force — the seriousness of the threat, the proper purpose of the proposed military action, whether means short of the use of force might reasonably succeed in stopping the threat, whether the military option is proportional to the threat at hand and whether there is a reasonable chance of success;

(i) Agree to establish a Peacebuilding Commission along the lines suggested in the present report, and agree to establish and support a voluntary standing fund for peacebuilding;

(j) Create strategic reserves for United Nations peacekeeping; support the efforts by the European Union, the African Union and others to establish standby capacities as part of an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities; and establish a United Nations civilian police standby capacity;

(k) Ensure that Security Council sanctions are effectively implemented and enforced, including by strengthening the capacity of Member States to implement sanctions, establishing well resourced monitoring mechanisms, and ensuring effective and accountable mechanisms to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of sanctions.

### **III. Freedom to live in dignity**

7. I urge Heads of State and Government to recommit themselves to supporting the rule of law, human rights and democracy — principles at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To this end, they should:

(a) Reaffirm their commitment to human dignity by action to strengthen the rule of law, ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote democracy so that universally recognized principles are implemented in all countries;

(b) Embrace the “responsibility to protect” as a basis for collective action against genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and agree to act on this responsibility, recognizing that this responsibility lies first and foremost with each individual State, whose duty it is to protect its population, but that if national authorities are unwilling or unable to protect their citizens, then the responsibility shifts to the international community to use diplomatic, humanitarian and other methods to help protect civilian populations, and that if such methods appear insufficient the Security Council may out of necessity decide to take action under the Charter, including enforcement action, if so required;

(c) Support the 2005 treaty event, focusing on 31 multilateral treaties, and encourage any Government that has not done so to agree to ratify and implement all treaties relating to the protection of civilians;

(d) Commit themselves to supporting democracy in their own countries, their regions and the world, and resolve to strengthen the United Nations capacity to assist emerging democracies, and to that end welcome the creation of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations to provide funding and technical assistance to countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democracy;

(e) Recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice in adjudicating disputes among countries and agree to consider means to strengthen the work of the Court.

### **IV. The imperative for collective action: strengthening the United Nations**

8. To make the United Nations a more effective and efficient instrument for forging a united response to shared threats and shared needs, I urge Heads of State and Government to:

(a) Reaffirm the broad vision of the founders of the United Nations, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, for it to be organized, resourced and equipped to address the full range of challenges confronting the peoples of the

world across the broad fields of security, economic and social issues, and human rights, and in that spirit to commit themselves to reforming, restructuring and revitalizing its major organs and institutions, where necessary, to enable them to respond effectively to the changed threats, needs and circumstances of the twenty-first century;

#### **General Assembly**

- (b) Revitalize the General Assembly by:
  - (i) Instructing their representatives to adopt, at its sixtieth session, a comprehensive package of reforms to revitalize the General Assembly, including by rationalizing its work and speeding up the deliberative process, streamlining its agenda, its committee structure and its procedures for plenary debates and requesting reports, and strengthening the role and authority of its President;
  - (ii) Resolving to give focus to the substantive agenda of the General Assembly by concentrating on addressing the major substantive issues of the day, such as international migration and the long-debated comprehensive convention on terrorism;
  - (iii) Establishing mechanisms enabling the Assembly to engage fully and systematically with civil society;

#### **Security Council**

- (c) Reform the Security Council to make it more broadly representative of the international community as a whole and the geopolitical realities of today, and to expand its membership to meet these goals, by:
  - (i) Supporting the principles for the reform of the Council and considering the two options, models A and B, proposed in the present report, as well as any other viable proposals in terms of size and balance that have emerged on the basis of either model;
  - (ii) Agreeing to take a decision on this important issue before the summit in September 2005. It would be far preferable for Member States to take this vital decision by consensus. If, however, they are unable to reach consensus, this must not become an excuse for postponing action;

#### **Economic and Social Council**

- (d) Reform the Economic and Social Council by:
  - (i) Mandating the Economic and Social Council to hold annual ministerial-level assessments of progress towards agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals;
  - (ii) Deciding that it should serve as a high-level development cooperation forum, reviewing trends in international development cooperation, promoting greater coherence among the development activities of different actors and strengthening the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;

(iii) Encouraging it to convene timely meetings, as required, to assess threats to development, such as famines, epidemics and major natural disasters, and to promote coordinated responses to them;

(iv) Deciding that the Council should regularize its work in post-conflict management by working with the proposed Peacebuilding Commission;

### **Proposed Human Rights Council**

(e) Agree to replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller standing Human Rights Council, as a principal organ of the United Nations or subsidiary body of the General Assembly, whose members would be elected directly by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting;

### **Secretariat**

(f) Reform the Secretariat by:

(i) Endorsing the Secretary-General's request that the General Assembly review all mandates older than five years to see if the activities concerned are still genuinely needed or whether resources assigned to them can be reallocated in response to new and emerging challenges;

(ii) Agreeing to provide the Secretary-General with the authority and resources to pursue a one-time staff buyout so as to refresh and realign the staff to meet current needs;

(iii) Deciding that Member States should work with the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of the budget and human resources rules under which the Organization operates;

(iv) Endorsing the package of management reforms that the Secretary-General is undertaking to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency within the Secretariat;

(v) Commissioning a comprehensive review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services with a view to strengthening its independence and authority, as well as its expertise and capacity;

### **System-wide coherence**

(g) Ensure stronger system-wide coherence by resolving to coordinate their representatives on the governing boards of the various development and humanitarian agencies so as to make sure that they pursue a coherent policy in assigning mandates and allocating resources throughout the system;

(h) Commit themselves to protecting humanitarian space and ensuring that humanitarian actors have safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations; resolve to act on proposals to accelerate humanitarian response by developing new funding arrangements to ensure that emergency funding is available immediately; and support the Secretary-General's effort to strengthen the inter-agency and country-level responses to the needs of internally displaced persons;

(i) Recognize the need for a more integrated structure for environmental standard-setting, scientific discussion and monitoring, and treaty compliance that is built on existing institutions, such as UNEP, as well as the treaty bodies and

specialized agencies, and that assigns environmental activities at the operational level to the development agencies to ensure an integrated approach to sustainable development;

**Regional organizations**

(j) Support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, including by, as a first step, developing and implementing a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union, and by ensuring that regional organizations that have a capacity for conflict prevention or peacekeeping consider the option of placing such capacities in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System;

**Charter of the United Nations**

(k) Decide to eliminate the references to “enemy States” contained in Articles 53 and 107 of the Charter of the United Nations; to delete Article 47 on the Military Staff Committee and the references to the Committee contained in Articles 26, 45 and 46; and to delete Chapter XIII on The Trusteeship Council.

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
24 October 2005

**Sixtieth session**  
Agenda items 46 and 120

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 September 2005

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/60/L.1)]

### 60/1. 2005 World Summit Outcome

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the following 2005 World Summit Outcome:

#### 2005 World Summit Outcome

##### I. Values and principles

1. We, Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005.
2. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations and our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterate our determination to foster strict respect for them.
3. We reaffirm the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup> which we adopted at the dawn of the twenty-first century. We recognize the valuable role of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Summit, in mobilizing the international community at the local, national, regional and global levels and in guiding the work of the United Nations.
4. We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential to international relations.
5. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect their territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to uphold resolution of disputes by

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 55/2.



peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.

6. We reaffirm the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, in accordance with international law, in order to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world and to achieve progress in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, underlining the central role of the United Nations, and commit ourselves to promoting and strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization through the implementation of its decisions and resolutions.

7. We believe that today, more than ever before, we live in a global and interdependent world. No State can stand wholly alone. We acknowledge that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with international law, against transnational threats.

8. We recognize that current developments and circumstances require that we urgently build consensus on major threats and challenges. We commit ourselves to translating that consensus into concrete action, including addressing the root causes of those threats and challenges with resolve and determination.

9. We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

10. We reaffirm that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities.

11. We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

12. We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security. We are committed to creating a world fit for future generations, which takes into account the best interests of the child.

13. We reaffirm the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights.

14. Acknowledging the diversity of the world, we recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We acknowledge the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world. In order to promote international peace and security, we commit ourselves to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples.

15. We pledge to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system. This is our shared responsibility and interest.

16. We therefore resolve to create a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic world and to undertake concrete measures to continue finding ways to implement the outcome of the Millennium Summit and the other major United Nations conferences and summits so as to provide multilateral solutions to problems in the four following areas:

- Development
- Peace and collective security
- Human rights and the rule of law
- Strengthening of the United Nations

## **II. Development**

17. We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication.

18. We emphasize the vital role played by the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives, which have contributed to improving human life in different parts of the world.

19. We reaffirm our commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all. We are encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past and are determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide. We remain concerned, however, about the slow and uneven progress towards poverty eradication and the realization of other development goals in some regions. We commit ourselves to promoting the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization. We underline the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by increased international support.

### **Global partnership for development**

20. We reaffirm our commitment to the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup> the Monterrey Consensus<sup>2</sup> and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.<sup>3</sup>

21. We further reaffirm our commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilize domestic resources, attract international

<sup>2</sup> Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex).

<sup>3</sup> Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II. A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex).

flows, promote international trade as an engine for development and increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

22. We reaffirm that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty. To this end, we resolve:

(a) To adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To manage public finances effectively to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability and long-term growth and to make effective and transparent use of public funds and ensure that development assistance is used to build national capacities;

(c) To support efforts by developing countries to adopt and implement national development policies and strategies through increased development assistance, the promotion of international trade as an engine for development, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, increased investment flows and wider and deeper debt relief, and to support developing countries by providing a substantial increase in aid of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner to assist them in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) That the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. It is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

(e) To enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development;

(f) To ensure that the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies support the efforts of developing countries through the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, enhancing their support for capacity-building;

(g) To protect our natural resource base in support of development.

### **Financing for development**

23. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus<sup>2</sup> and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of those resources in developing countries and countries with economies in transition are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard:

(a) We are encouraged by recent commitments to substantial increases in official development assistance and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimate that official development assistance to all developing countries will now increase by around 50 billion United States dollars a year by 2010, while recognizing that a substantial increase in such assistance is required to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, within their respective time frames;

(b) We welcome the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 as well as, pursuant to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>4</sup> 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries no later than 2010, and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

(c) We further welcome recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and resolve to take concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with countries' strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;

(d) We recognize the value of developing innovative sources of financing, provided those sources do not unduly burden developing countries. In that regard, we take note with interest of the international efforts, contributions and discussions, such as the Action against Hunger and Poverty, aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing. Some countries will implement the International Finance Facility. Some countries have launched the International Finance Facility for immunization. Some countries will implement in the near future, utilizing their national authorities, a contribution on airline tickets to enable the financing of development projects, in particular in the health sector, directly or through financing of the International Finance Facility. Other countries are considering whether and to what extent they will participate in these initiatives;

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<sup>4</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

(e) We acknowledge the vital role the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development;

(f) We resolve to address the development needs of low-income developing countries by working in competent multilateral and international forums, to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements;

(g) We resolve to continue to support the development efforts of middle-income developing countries by working, in competent multilateral and international forums and also through bilateral arrangements, on measures to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements;

(h) We resolve to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly and invite those countries in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

(i) We recognize the need for access to financial services, in particular for the poor, including through microfinance and microcredit.

### **Domestic resource mobilization**

24. In our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment, increasing human capacity, reducing capital flight, curbing the illicit transfer of funds and enhancing international cooperation for creating an enabling domestic environment. We undertake to support the efforts of developing countries to create a domestic enabling environment for mobilizing domestic resources. To this end, we therefore resolve:

(a) To pursue good governance and sound macroeconomic policies at all levels and support developing countries in their efforts to put in place the policies and investments to drive sustained economic growth, promote small and medium-sized enterprises, promote employment generation and stimulate the private sector;

(b) To reaffirm that good governance is essential for sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

(c) To make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and we welcome all actions taken in this regard at the national and international levels, including the adoption of policies that emphasize accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.<sup>5</sup> We urge all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying and implementing the Convention;

(d) To channel private capabilities and resources into stimulating the private sector in developing countries through actions in the public, public/private and

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<sup>5</sup> Resolution 58/4, annex.

private spheres to create an enabling environment for partnership and innovation that contributes to accelerated economic development and hunger and poverty eradication;

(e) To support efforts to reduce capital flight and measures to curb the illicit transfer of funds.

### **Investment**

25. We resolve to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign investment, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support their development activities and to enhance the benefits they can derive from such investments. In this regard:

(a) We continue to support efforts by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments through, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights and the rule of law and pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage business formation;

(b) We will put into place policies to ensure adequate investment in a sustainable manner in health, clean water and sanitation, housing and education and in the provision of public goods and social safety nets to protect vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of society;

(c) We invite national Governments seeking to develop infrastructure projects and generate foreign direct investment to pursue strategies with the involvement of both the public and private sectors and, where appropriate, international donors;

(d) We call upon international financial and banking institutions to consider enhancing the transparency of risk rating mechanisms. Sovereign risk assessments, made by the private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis;

(e) We underscore the need to sustain sufficient and stable private financial flows to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It is important to promote measures in source and destination countries to improve transparency and the information about financial flows to developing countries, particularly countries in Africa, the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. Measures that mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows are important and must be considered.

### **Debt**

26. We emphasize the high importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, since debt financing and relief can be an important source of capital for development. To this end:

(a) We welcome the recent proposals of the Group of Eight to cancel 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of eligible heavily indebted poor countries owed to the International Monetary Fund, the International Development Association and African Development Fund and to provide additional resources to ensure that the financing capacity of the international financial institutions is not reduced;

(b) We emphasize that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth and underline the importance of debt sustainability to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing the key role that debt relief can play in liberating resources that can be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

(c) We further stress the need to consider additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, cancellation of 100 per cent of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and, where appropriate, and on a case-by-case basis, to consider significant debt relief or restructuring for low- and middle-income developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, as well as the exploration of mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of those countries. Such mechanisms may include debt for sustainable development swaps or multicreditor debt swap arrangements, as appropriate. These initiatives could include further efforts by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to develop the debt sustainability framework for low-income countries. This should be achieved in a fashion that does not detract from official development assistance resources, while maintaining the financial integrity of the multilateral financial institutions.

### **Trade**

27. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

28. We are committed to efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, especially the least-developed countries, participate fully in the world trading system in order to meet their economic development needs, and reaffirm our commitment to enhanced and predictable market access for the exports of developing countries.

29. We will work towards the objective, in accordance with the Brussels Programme of Action,<sup>4</sup> of duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries' products to the markets of developed countries, as well as to the markets of developing countries in a position to do so, and support their efforts to overcome their supply-side constraints.

30. We are committed to supporting and promoting increased aid to build productive and trade capacities of developing countries and to taking further steps in that regard, while welcoming the substantial support already provided.

31. We will work to accelerate and facilitate the accession of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the World Trade Organization consistent with its criteria, recognizing the importance of universal integration in the rules-based global trading system.

32. We will work expeditiously towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work programme.<sup>6</sup>

### **Commodities**

33. We emphasize the need to address the impact of weak and volatile commodity prices and support the efforts of commodity-dependent countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors.

### **Quick-impact initiatives**

34. Given the need to accelerate progress immediately in countries where current trends make the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals unlikely, we resolve to urgently identify and implement country-led initiatives with adequate international support, consistent with long-term national development strategies, that promise immediate and durable improvements in the lives of people and renewed hope for the achievement of the development goals. In this regard, we will take such actions as the distribution of malaria bed nets, including free distribution, where appropriate, and effective anti-malarial treatments, the expansion of local school meal programmes, using home-grown foods where possible, and the elimination of user fees for primary education and, where appropriate, health-care services.

### **Systemic issues and global economic decision-making**

35. We reaffirm the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and to that end stress the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, noting that enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuous concern.

36. We reaffirm our commitment to governance, equity and transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are also committed to open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems.

37. We also underscore our commitment to sound domestic financial sectors, which make a vital contribution to national development efforts, as an important component of an international financial architecture that is supportive of development.

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

39. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international

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<sup>6</sup> See A/C.2/56/7, annex.



economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries.

### **South-South cooperation**

40. We recognize the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encourage the promotion of such cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation as an effective contribution to development and as a means to share best practices and provide enhanced technical cooperation. In this context, we note the recent decision of the leaders of the South, adopted at the Second South Summit and contained in the Doha Declaration<sup>7</sup> and the Doha Plan of Action,<sup>8</sup> to intensify their efforts at South-South cooperation, including through the establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and other regional cooperation mechanisms, and encourage the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation. We also take note with appreciation of the launching of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as an important instrument to stimulate South-South cooperation.

41. We welcome the work of the United Nations High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and invite countries to consider supporting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme in order to respond effectively to the development needs of developing countries.

42. We recognize the considerable contribution of arrangements such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund initiated by a group of developing countries, as well as the potential contribution of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, to development activities in developing countries.

### **Education**

43. We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup> in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty. In this context, we reaffirm the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000<sup>9</sup> and recognize the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for

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<sup>7</sup> A/60/111, annex I.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., annex II.

<sup>9</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

All programmes as a tool to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015.

44. We reaffirm our commitment to support developing country efforts to ensure that all children have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality, to eliminate gender inequality and imbalance and to renew efforts to improve girls' education. We also commit ourselves to continuing to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the Education for All initiative, including with enhanced resources of all types through the Education for All fast-track initiative in support of country-led national education plans.

45. We commit ourselves to promoting education for peace and human development.

#### **Rural and agricultural development**

46. We reaffirm that food security and rural and agricultural development must be adequately and urgently addressed in the context of national development and response strategies and, in this context, will enhance the contributions of indigenous and local communities, as appropriate. We are convinced that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies. We deem it necessary to increase productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security. We commit ourselves to increasing support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries. Support for commodity development projects, especially market-based projects, and for their preparation under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities should be encouraged.

#### **Employment**

47. We strongly support fair globalization and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. These measures should also encompass the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and forced labour. We also resolve to ensure full respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work.

#### **Sustainable development: managing and protecting our common environment**

48. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development, including through the implementation of Agenda 21<sup>10</sup> and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.<sup>3</sup> To this end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles.<sup>11</sup> These efforts will also promote the integration of the

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<sup>10</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, annex I.

three components of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

49. We will promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that context, we support developing countries in their efforts to promote a recycling economy.

50. We face serious and multiple challenges in tackling climate change, promoting clean energy, meeting energy needs and achieving sustainable development, and we will act with resolve and urgency in this regard.

51. We recognize that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. We emphasize the need to meet all the commitments and obligations we have undertaken in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>12</sup> and other relevant international agreements, including, for many of us, the Kyoto Protocol.<sup>13</sup> The Convention is the appropriate framework for addressing future action on climate change at the global level.

52. We reaffirm our commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention: to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

53. We acknowledge that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the Convention. We are committed to moving forward the global discussion on long-term cooperative action to address climate change, in accordance with these principles. We stress the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Montreal in November 2005.

54. We acknowledge various partnerships that are under way to advance action on clean energy and climate change, including bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives.

55. We are committed to taking further action through practical international cooperation, inter alia:

(a) To promote innovation, clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation; improve policy, regulatory and financing frameworks; and accelerate the deployment of cleaner technologies;

(b) To enhance private investment, transfer of technologies and capacity-building to developing countries, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account their own energy needs and priorities;

(c) To assist developing countries to improve their resilience and integrate adaptation goals into their sustainable development strategies, given that adaptation to the effects of climate change due to both natural and human factors is a high

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>13</sup> FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

priority for all nations, particularly those most vulnerable, namely, those referred to in article 4.8 of the Convention;

(d) To continue to assist developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and African countries, including those that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in addressing their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change.

56. In pursuance of our commitment to achieve sustainable development, we further resolve:

(a) To promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”;

(b) To support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>14</sup> to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

(c) That the States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>15</sup> and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety<sup>16</sup> should support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other biodiversity-related agreements and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. The States parties will continue to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,<sup>17</sup> an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. All States will fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;

(d) To recognize that the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their communities is crucial in our fight against hunger and poverty;

(e) To reaffirm our commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

(f) To work expeditiously towards the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards with regional nodes, building on existing national and regional capacity such as the newly established Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;

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<sup>14</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>16</sup> UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

<sup>17</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, annex I, decision VI/24A.

(g) To fully implement the Hyogo Declaration<sup>18</sup> and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015<sup>19</sup> adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

(h) To assist developing countries' efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the Millennium Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,<sup>3</sup> including halving by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and who do not have access to basic sanitation;

(i) To accelerate the development and dissemination of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty;

(j) To strengthen the conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, including through enhanced international cooperation, so that trees and forests may contribute fully to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors. We look forward to the discussions at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(k) To promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, aiming to achieve that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment using transparent and science-based risk assessment and risk management procedures, by adopting and implementing a voluntary strategic approach to international management of chemicals, and to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate;

(l) To improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address issues related to oceans and seas in an integrated manner and promote integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas;

(m) To achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

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<sup>18</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

<sup>19</sup> Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

(n) To acknowledge the invaluable role of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating cooperation with developing countries; we look forward to a successful replenishment this year along with the successful conclusion of all outstanding commitments from the third replenishment;

(o) To note that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries and recognize the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials. States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns. These concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport.

#### **HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues**

57. We recognize that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of development goals. We acknowledge the substantial efforts and financial contributions made by the international community, while recognizing that these diseases and other emerging health challenges require a sustained international response. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

(a) Increasing investment, building on existing mechanisms and through partnership, to improve health systems in developing countries and those with economies in transition with the aim of providing sufficient health workers, infrastructure, management systems and supplies to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

(b) Implementing measures to increase the capacity of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection;

(c) Fully implementing all commitments established by the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>20</sup> through stronger leadership, the scaling up of a comprehensive response to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, care, treatment and support, the mobilization of additional resources from national, bilateral, multilateral and private sources and the substantial funding of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as of the HIV/AIDS component of the work programmes of the United Nations system agencies and programmes engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

(d) Developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it, including through increased resources, and working towards the elimination of stigma and discrimination, enhanced access to affordable medicines and the reduction of vulnerability of

<sup>20</sup> Resolution S-26/2, annex.

persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other health issues, in particular orphaned and vulnerable children and older persons;

(e) Ensuring the full implementation of our obligations under the International Health Regulations adopted by the fifty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2005,<sup>21</sup> including the need to support the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization;

(f) Working actively to implement the “Three Ones” principles in all countries, including by ensuring that multiple institutions and international partners all work under one agreed HIV/AIDS framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners, with one national AIDS coordinating authority having a broad-based multisectoral mandate, and under one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system. We welcome and support the important recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors;

(g) Achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

(h) Promoting long-term funding, including public-private partnerships where appropriate, for academic and industrial research as well as for the development of new vaccines and microbicides, diagnostic kits, drugs and treatments to address major pandemics, tropical diseases and other diseases, such as avian flu and severe acute respiratory syndrome, and taking forward work on market incentives, where appropriate through such mechanisms as advance purchase commitments;

(i) Stressing the need to urgently address malaria and tuberculosis, in particular in the most affected countries, and welcoming the scaling up, in this regard, of bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

### **Gender equality and empowerment of women**

58. We remain convinced that progress for women is progress for all. We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>22</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and we resolve to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by:

(a) Eliminating gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all educational levels by 2015;

(b) Guaranteeing the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property and ensuring secure tenure of property and housing by women;

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<sup>21</sup> World Health Assembly resolution 58.3.

<sup>22</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

- (c) Ensuring equal access to reproductive health;
- (d) Promoting women's equal access to labour markets, sustainable employment and adequate labour protection;
- (e) Ensuring equal access of women to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology;
- (f) Eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child, including by ending impunity and by ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular women and the girl child, during and after armed conflicts in accordance with the obligations of States under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- (g) Promoting increased representation of women in Government decision-making bodies, including through ensuring their equal opportunity to participate fully in the political process.

59. We recognize the importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality. To that end, we undertake to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, and further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender.

#### **Science and technology for development**

60. We recognize that science and technology, including information and communication technology, are vital for the achievement of the development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity. We therefore commit ourselves to:

- (a) Strengthening and enhancing existing mechanisms and supporting initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;
- (b) Promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;
- (c) Assisting developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;
- (d) Promoting and supporting greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal;
- (e) Implementing policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;
- (f) Supporting the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;



(g) Building a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide, putting the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and addressing new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005; in this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and encourage voluntary contributions to its financing.

#### **Migration and development**

61. We acknowledge the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit. We recognize that international migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community. We look forward to the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on international migration and development to be held in 2006, which will offer an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impacts.

62. We reaffirm our resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families.

63. We reaffirm the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of transferring migrant remittances to developing countries and welcome efforts by Governments and stakeholders in this regard.

#### **Countries with special needs**

64. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries and urge all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010.<sup>4</sup>

65. We recognize the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and therefore reaffirm our commitment to urgently address those needs and challenges through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries<sup>23</sup> and the São Paulo Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.<sup>24</sup> We encourage the work undertaken by United Nations regional commissions and organizations towards establishing a time-cost methodology for indicators to measure the progress in implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. We also recognize the special difficulties and concerns of landlocked developing countries in their efforts to integrate their economies into the

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<sup>23</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

<sup>24</sup> TD/412, part II.

multilateral trading system. In this regard, priority should be given to the full and timely implementation of the Almaty Declaration<sup>25</sup> and the Almaty Programme of Action.<sup>23</sup>

66. We recognize the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States and reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address those needs and vulnerabilities through the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>26</sup> the Barbados Programme of Action<sup>27</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.<sup>28</sup> We further undertake to promote greater international cooperation and partnership for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy through, inter alia, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the promotion of international trade as an engine for development and increased international financial and technical cooperation.

67. We emphasize the need for continued, coordinated and effective international support for achieving the development goals in countries emerging from conflict and in those recovering from natural disasters.

#### **Meeting the special needs of Africa**

68. We welcome the substantial progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments and emphasize the need to carry forward the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development<sup>29</sup> to promote sustainable growth and development and deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management and gender equality and encourage African countries, with the participation of civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and the development of the region, and also welcome the recent decisions taken by Africa's partners, including the Group of Eight and the European Union, in support of Africa's development efforts, including commitments that will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, and resolve:

(a) To strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and

<sup>25</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.*

<sup>26</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

<sup>27</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

<sup>28</sup> Resolution S-22/2, annex.

<sup>29</sup> A/57/304, annex.

external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions;

(b) To support the African commitment to ensure that by 2015 all children have access to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, as well as to basic health care;

(c) To support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa;

(d) To promote a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including through the cancellation of 100 per cent of multilateral debt consistent with the recent Group of Eight proposal for the heavily indebted poor countries, and, on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate, significant debt relief, including, inter alia, cancellation or restructuring for heavily indebted African countries not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that have unsustainable debt burdens;

(e) To make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes;

(f) To support the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price-risk management;

(g) To supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as part of an African "Green Revolution";

(h) To encourage and support the initiatives of the African Union and subregional organizations to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts with the assistance of the United Nations, and in this regard welcomes the proposals from the Group of Eight countries to provide support for African peacekeeping;

(i) To provide, with the aim of an AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free generation in Africa, assistance for prevention and care and to come as close as possible to achieving the goal of universal access by 2010 to HIV/AIDS treatment in African countries, to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make drugs, including antiretroviral drugs, affordable and accessible in Africa and to ensure increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems.

### **III. Peace and collective security**

69. We recognize that we are facing a whole range of threats that require our urgent, collective and more determined response.

70. We also recognize that, in accordance with the Charter, addressing such threats requires cooperation among all the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective mandates.

71. We acknowledge that we are living in an interdependent and global world and that many of today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are interlinked and

must be tackled at the global, regional and national levels in accordance with the Charter and international law.

72. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to work towards a security consensus based on the recognition that many threats are interlinked, that development, peace, security and human rights are mutually reinforcing, that no State can best protect itself by acting entirely alone and that all States need an effective and efficient collective security system pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

#### **Pacific settlement of disputes**

73. We emphasize the obligation of States to settle their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including, when appropriate, by the use of the International Court of Justice. All States should act in accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.<sup>30</sup>

74. We stress the importance of prevention of armed conflict in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and solemnly renew our commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflict as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict.

75. We further stress the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflicts and the settlement of disputes and the need for the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General to coordinate their activities within their respective Charter mandates.

76. Recognizing the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes, we support the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen his capacity in this area.

#### **Use of force under the Charter of the United Nations**

77. We reiterate the obligation of all Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the Charter. We reaffirm that the purposes and principles guiding the United Nations are, inter alia, to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, and to that end we are determined to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations that might lead to a breach of the peace.

78. We reiterate the importance of promoting and strengthening the multilateral process and of addressing international challenges and problems by strictly abiding

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<sup>30</sup> Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

by the Charter and the principles of international law, and further stress our commitment to multilateralism.

79. We reaffirm that the relevant provisions of the Charter are sufficient to address the full range of threats to international peace and security. We further reaffirm the authority of the Security Council to mandate coercive action to maintain and restore international peace and security. We stress the importance of acting in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

80. We also reaffirm that the Security Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. We also note the role of the General Assembly relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter.

### **Terrorism**

81. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

82. We welcome the Secretary-General's identification of elements of a counter-terrorism strategy. These elements should be developed by the General Assembly without delay with a view to adopting and implementing a strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also takes into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this context, we commend the various initiatives to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations.

83. We stress the need to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

84. We acknowledge that the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations could be considered.

85. We recognize that international cooperation to fight terrorism must be conducted in conformity with international law, including the Charter and relevant international conventions and protocols. States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

86. We reiterate our call upon States to refrain from organizing, financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities and to take appropriate measures to ensure that their territories are not used for such activities.

87. We acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism and also stress the vital contribution of regional and bilateral cooperation, particularly at the practical level of law enforcement cooperation and technical exchange.

88. We urge the international community, including the United Nations, to assist States in building national and regional capacity to combat terrorism. We invite the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly and the Security Council, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the capacity of the United

Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance the coordination of United Nations activities in this regard.

89. We stress the importance of assisting victims of terrorism and of providing them and their families with support to cope with their loss and their grief.

90. We encourage the Security Council to consider ways to strengthen its monitoring and enforcement role in counter-terrorism, including by consolidating State reporting requirements, taking into account and respecting the different mandates of its counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies. We are committed to cooperating fully with the three competent subsidiary bodies in the fulfilment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in implementing relevant Security Council resolutions.

91. We support efforts for the early entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism<sup>31</sup> and strongly encourage States to consider becoming parties to it expeditiously and acceding without delay to the twelve other international conventions and protocols against terrorism and implementing them.

### **Peacekeeping**

92. Recognizing that United Nations peacekeeping plays a vital role in helping parties to conflict end hostilities and commending the contribution of United Nations peacekeepers in that regard, noting improvements made in recent years in United Nations peacekeeping, including the deployment of integrated missions in complex situations, and stressing the need to mount operations with adequate capacity to counter hostilities and fulfil effectively their mandates, we urge further development of proposals for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to reinforce peacekeeping operations in crises. We endorse the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity to provide coherent, effective and responsive start-up capability for the policing component of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and to assist existing missions through the provision of advice and expertise.

93. Recognizing the important contribution to peace and security by regional organizations as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter and the importance of forging predictable partnerships and arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations, and noting in particular, given the special needs of Africa, the importance of a strong African Union:

(a) We support the efforts of the European Union and other regional entities to develop capacities such as for rapid deployment, standby and bridging arrangements;

(b) We support the development and implementation of a ten-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union.

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<sup>31</sup> Resolution 59/290, annex.

94. We support implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.<sup>32</sup>

95. We urge States parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention<sup>33</sup> and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons<sup>34</sup> to fully implement their respective obligations. We call upon States in a position to do so to provide greater technical assistance to mine-affected States.

96. We underscore the importance of the recommendations of the Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel,<sup>35</sup> and urge that those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based upon the recommendations be fully implemented without delay.

### **Peacebuilding**

97. Emphasizing the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace, recognizing the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development, and recognizing the vital role of the United Nations in that regard, we decide to establish a Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body.

98. The main purpose of the Peacebuilding Commission is to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. The Commission should focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development. In addition, it should provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, develop best practices, help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and extend the period of attention by the international community to post-conflict recovery. The Commission should act in all matters on the basis of consensus of its members.

99. The Peacebuilding Commission should make the outcome of its discussions and recommendations publicly available as United Nations documents to all relevant bodies and actors, including the international financial institutions. The Peacebuilding Commission should submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

100. The Peacebuilding Commission should meet in various configurations. Country-specific meetings of the Commission, upon invitation of the Organizational

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<sup>32</sup> See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

<sup>33</sup> Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597).

<sup>34</sup> Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B).

<sup>35</sup> A/59/710, paras. 68-93.

Committee referred to in paragraph 101 below, should include as members, in addition to members of the Organizational Committee, representatives from:

- (a) The country under consideration;
- (b) Countries in the region engaged in the post-conflict process and other countries that are involved in relief efforts and/or political dialogue, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations;
- (c) The major financial, troop and civilian police contributors involved in the recovery effort;
- (d) The senior United Nations representative in the field and other relevant United Nations representatives;
- (e) Such regional and international financial institutions as may be relevant.

101. The Peacebuilding Commission should have a standing Organizational Committee, responsible for developing its procedures and organizational matters, comprising:

- (a) Members of the Security Council, including permanent members;
- (b) Members of the Economic and Social Council, elected from regional groups, giving due consideration to those countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery;
- (c) Top providers of assessed contributions to the United Nations budgets and voluntary contributions to the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, including the standing Peacebuilding Fund, that are not among those selected in (a) or (b) above;
- (d) Top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions that are not among those selected in (a), (b) or (c) above.

102. Representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutional donors should be invited to participate in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission in a manner suitable to their governing arrangements, in addition to a representative of the Secretary-General.

103. We request the Secretary-General to establish a multi-year standing Peacebuilding Fund for post-conflict peacebuilding, funded by voluntary contributions and taking due account of existing instruments. The objectives of the Peacebuilding Fund will include ensuring the immediate release of resources needed to launch peacebuilding activities and the availability of appropriate financing for recovery.

104. We also request the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat and from within existing resources, a small peacebuilding support office staffed by qualified experts to assist and support the Peacebuilding Commission. The office should draw on the best expertise available.

105. The Peacebuilding Commission should begin its work no later than 31 December 2005.

### **Sanctions**

106. We underscore that sanctions remain an important tool under the Charter in our efforts to maintain international peace and security without recourse to the use of force, and resolve to ensure that sanctions are carefully targeted in support of clear



objectives, to comply with sanctions established by the Security Council and to ensure that sanctions are implemented in ways that balance effectiveness to achieve the desired results against the possible adverse consequences, including socio-economic and humanitarian consequences, for populations and third States.

107. Sanctions should be implemented and monitored effectively with clear benchmarks and should be periodically reviewed, as appropriate, and remain for as limited a period as necessary to achieve their objectives and should be terminated once the objectives have been achieved.

108. We call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to improve its monitoring of the implementation and effects of sanctions, to ensure that sanctions are implemented in an accountable manner, to review regularly the results of such monitoring and to develop a mechanism to address special economic problems arising from the application of sanctions in accordance with the Charter.

109. We also call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions.

110. We support efforts through the United Nations to strengthen State capacity to implement sanctions provisions.

#### **Transnational crime**

111. We express our grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, the world narcotic drug problem and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime. We reaffirm the need to work collectively to combat transnational crime.

112. We recognize that trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To that end, we urge all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims.

113. We urge all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions on organized crime and corruption and, following their entry into force, to implement them effectively, including by incorporating the provisions of those conventions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems.

114. We reaffirm our unwavering determination and commitment to overcome the world narcotic drug problem through international cooperation and national strategies to eliminate both the illicit supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

115. We resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandates, to provide assistance to Member States in those tasks upon request.

#### **Women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts**

116. We stress the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. We reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on

women and peace and security. We also underline the importance of integrating a gender perspective and of women having the opportunity for equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase their role in decision-making at all levels. We strongly condemn all violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the use of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse, and we commit ourselves to elaborating and implementing strategies to report on, prevent and punish gender-based violence.

#### **Protecting children in situations of armed conflict**

117. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children in armed conflicts. We welcome the significant advances and innovations that have been achieved over the past several years. We welcome in particular the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005. We call upon States to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>36</sup> and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.<sup>37</sup> We also call upon States to take effective measures, as appropriate, to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, contrary to international law, by armed forces and groups, and to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

118. We therefore call upon all States concerned to take concrete measures to ensure accountability and compliance by those responsible for grave abuses against children. We also reaffirm our commitment to ensure that children in armed conflicts receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance, including education, for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

#### **IV. Human rights and the rule of law**

119. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy and recognize that they are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations, and call upon all parts of the United Nations to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their mandates.

120. We reaffirm the solemn commitment of our States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>38</sup> and other instruments relating to human rights and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

#### **Human rights**

121. We reaffirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their

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<sup>36</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>37</sup> Resolution 54/263, annex I.

<sup>38</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

122. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

123. We resolve further to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

124. We resolve to strengthen the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking note of the High Commissioner's plan of action, to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate to respond to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building, through the doubling of its regular budget resources over the next five years with a view to progressively setting a balance between regular budget and voluntary contributions to its resources, keeping in mind other priority programmes for developing countries and the recruitment of highly competent staff on a broad geographical basis and with gender balance, under the regular budget, and we support its closer cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

125. We resolve to improve the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies, including through more timely reporting, improved and streamlined reporting procedures and technical assistance to States to enhance their reporting capacities and further enhance the implementation of their recommendations.

126. We resolve to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies and to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, as well as closer cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all relevant United Nations bodies.

127. We reaffirm our commitment to continue making progress in the advancement of the human rights of the world's indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional and international levels, including through consultation and collaboration with them, and to present for adoption a final draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as soon as possible.

128. We recognize the need to pay special attention to the human rights of women and children and undertake to advance them in every possible way, including by bringing gender and child-protection perspectives into the human rights agenda.

129. We recognize the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed full enjoyment of their rights without discrimination. We also affirm the need to finalize a comprehensive draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

130. We note that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society.

131. We support the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encourage all States to develop initiatives in this regard.

**Internally displaced persons**

132. We recognize the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement<sup>39</sup> as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons and resolve to take effective measures to increase the protection of internally displaced persons.

**Refugee protection and assistance**

133. We commit ourselves to safeguarding the principle of refugee protection and to upholding our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, including through the support of efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement, bringing about the safe and sustainable return of those populations, finding durable solutions for refugees in protracted situations and preventing refugee movement from becoming a source of tension among States. We reaffirm the principle of solidarity and burden-sharing and resolve to support nations in assisting refugee populations and their host communities.

**Rule of law**

134. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels, we:

(a) Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States;

(b) Support the annual treaty event;

(c) Encourage States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to all treaties that relate to the protection of civilians;

(d) Call upon States to continue their efforts to eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;

(e) Support the idea of establishing a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat, in accordance with existing relevant procedures, subject to a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, so as to strengthen United Nations activities to promote the rule of law, including through technical assistance and capacity-building;

(f) Recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, call upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute and consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice on a voluntary basis.

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<sup>39</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

**Democracy**

135. We reaffirm that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We also reaffirm that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirm the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination. We stress that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

136. We renew our commitment to support democracy by strengthening countries' capacity to implement the principles and practices of democracy and resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States upon their request. We welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations. We note that the advisory board to be established should reflect diverse geographical representation. We invite the Secretary-General to help to ensure that practical arrangements for the Democracy Fund take proper account of existing United Nations activity in this field.

137. We invite interested Member States to give serious consideration to contributing to the Fund.

**Responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**

138. Each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We accept that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability.

139. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In this context, we are prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We stress the need for the General Assembly to continue consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and its implications, bearing in mind the principles of the Charter and international law. We also intend to commit ourselves, as necessary and appropriate, to helping States build capacity to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and to assisting those which are under stress before crises and conflicts break out.

140. We fully support the mission of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.

### **Children's rights**

141. We express dismay at the increasing number of children involved in and affected by armed conflict, as well as all other forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking. We support cooperation policies aimed at strengthening national capacities to improve the situation of those children and to assist in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

142. We commit ourselves to respecting and ensuring the rights of each child without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status of the child or his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). We call upon States to consider as a priority becoming a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>36</sup>

### **Human security**

143. We stress the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. We recognize that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. To this end, we commit ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly.

### **Culture of peace and initiatives on dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions**

144. We reaffirm the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace<sup>40</sup> as well as the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action<sup>41</sup> adopted by the General Assembly and the value of different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations, including the dialogue on interfaith cooperation. We commit ourselves to taking action to promote a culture of peace and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels and request the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms and to follow up on those initiatives. In this regard, we also welcome the Alliance of Civilizations initiative announced by the Secretary-General on 14 July 2005.

145. We underline that sports can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and we encourage discussions in the General Assembly for proposals leading to a plan of action on sport and development.

## **V. Strengthening the United Nations**

146. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its authority and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the full range of challenges of our time. We are determined to reinvigorate the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations and to adapt them to the needs of the twenty-first century.

<sup>40</sup> Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

<sup>41</sup> See resolution 56/6.

147. We stress that, in order to efficiently perform their respective mandates as provided under the Charter, United Nations bodies should develop good cooperation and coordination in the common endeavour of building a more effective United Nations.

148. We emphasize the need to provide the United Nations with adequate and timely resources with a view to enabling it to carry out its mandates. A reformed United Nations must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and adapted to carrying out its mandate.

#### **General Assembly**

149. We reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

150. We welcome the measures adopted by the General Assembly with a view to strengthening its role and authority and the role and leadership of the President of the Assembly and, to that end, we call for their full and speedy implementation.

151. We call for strengthening the relationship between the General Assembly and the other principal organs to ensure better coordination on topical issues that require coordinated action by the United Nations, in accordance with their respective mandates.

#### **Security Council**

152. We reaffirm that Member States have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter.

153. We support early reform of the Security Council - an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations - in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. We commit ourselves to continuing our efforts to achieve a decision to this end and request the General Assembly to review progress on the reform set out above by the end of 2005.

154. We recommend that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, as appropriate, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work.

#### **Economic and Social Council**

155. We reaffirm the role that the Charter and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council and recognize the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals. To achieve these objectives, the Council should:

(a) Promote global dialogue and partnership on global policies and trends in the economic, social, environmental and humanitarian fields. For this purpose, the Council should serve as a quality platform for high-level engagement among

Member States and with the international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society on emerging global trends, policies and action and develop its ability to respond better and more rapidly to developments in the international economic, environmental and social fields;

(b) Hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;

(c) Ensure follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals, and hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress, drawing on its functional and regional commissions and other international institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(d) Support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response from the United Nations;

(e) Play a major role in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities.

156. We stress that in order to fully perform the above functions, the organization of work, the agenda and the current methods of work of the Economic and Social Council should be adapted.

#### **Human Rights Council**

157. Pursuant to our commitment to further strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery, we resolve to create a Human Rights Council.

158. The Council will be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner.

159. The Council should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote effective coordination and the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system.

160. We request the President of the General Assembly to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations, to be completed as soon as possible during the sixtieth session, with the aim of establishing the mandate, modalities, functions, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures of the Council.

#### **Secretariat and management reform**

161. We recognize that in order to effectively comply with the principles and objectives of the Charter, we need an efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat. Its staff shall act in accordance with Article 100 of the Charter, in a culture of organizational accountability, transparency and integrity. Consequently we:

(a) Recognize the ongoing reform measures carried out by the Secretary-General to strengthen accountability and oversight, improve management



performance and transparency and reinforce ethical conduct, and invite him to report to the General Assembly on the progress made in their implementation;

(b) Emphasize the importance of establishing effective and efficient mechanisms for responsibility and accountability of the Secretariat;

(c) Urge the Secretary-General to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity shall be the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter;

(d) Welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure ethical conduct, more extensive financial disclosure for United Nations officials and enhanced protection for those who reveal wrongdoing within the Organization. We urge the Secretary-General to scrupulously apply the existing standards of conduct and develop a system-wide code of ethics for all United Nations personnel. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit details on an ethics office with independent status, which he intends to create, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

(e) Pledge to provide the United Nations with adequate resources, on a timely basis, to enable the Organization to implement its mandates and achieve its objectives, having regard to the priorities agreed by the General Assembly and the need to respect budget discipline. We stress that all Member States should meet their obligations with regard to the expenses of the Organization;

(f) Strongly urge the Secretary-General to make the best and most efficient use of resources in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interest of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices, including effective use of information and communication technologies, with a view to increasing efficiency and enhancing organizational capacity, concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of the Organization.

162. We reaffirm the role of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter. We request the Secretary-General to make proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration on the conditions and measures necessary for him to carry out his managerial responsibilities effectively.

163. We commend the Secretary-General's previous and ongoing efforts to enhance the effective management of the United Nations and his commitment to update the Organization. Bearing in mind our responsibility as Member States, we emphasize the need to decide on additional reforms in order to make more efficient use of the financial and human resources available to the Organization and thus better comply with its principles, objectives and mandates. We call on the Secretary-General to submit proposals for implementing management reforms to the General Assembly for consideration and decision in the first quarter of 2006, which will include the following elements:

(a) We will ensure that the United Nations budgetary, financial and human resource policies, regulations and rules respond to the current needs of the Organization and enable the efficient and effective conduct of its work, and request the Secretary-General to provide an assessment and recommendations to the General Assembly for decision during the first quarter of 2006. The assessment and recommendations of the Secretary-General should take account of the measures already under way for the reform of human resources management and the budget process;

(b) We resolve to strengthen and update the programme of work of the United Nations so that it responds to the contemporary requirements of Member States. To this end, the General Assembly and other relevant organs will review all mandates older than five years originating from resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs, which would be complementary to the existing periodic reviews of activities. The General Assembly and the other organs should complete and take the necessary decisions arising from this review during 2006. We request the Secretary-General to facilitate this review with analysis and recommendations, including on the opportunities for programmatic shifts that could be considered for early General Assembly consideration;

(c) A detailed proposal on the framework for a one-time staff buyout to improve personnel structure and quality, including an indication of costs involved and mechanisms to ensure that it achieves its intended purpose.

164. We recognize the urgent need to substantially improve the United Nations oversight and management processes. We emphasize the importance of ensuring the operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Therefore:

(a) The expertise, capacity and resources of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in respect of audit and investigations will be significantly strengthened as a matter of urgency;

(b) We request the Secretary-General to submit an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system of the United Nations, including the specialized agencies, including the roles and responsibilities of management, with due regard to the nature of the auditing and oversight bodies in question. This evaluation will take place within the context of the comprehensive review of the governance arrangements. We ask the General Assembly to adopt measures during its sixtieth session at the earliest possible stage, based on the consideration of recommendations of the evaluation and those made by the Secretary-General;

(c) We recognize that additional measures are needed to enhance the independence of the oversight structures. We therefore request the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session for its early consideration on the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee, including its mandate, composition, selection process and qualification of experts;

(d) We authorize the Office of Internal Oversight Services to examine the feasibility of expanding its services to provide internal oversight to United Nations agencies that request such services in such a way as to ensure that the provision of internal oversight services to the Secretariat will not be compromised.

165. We insist on the highest standards of behaviour from all United Nations personnel and support the considerable efforts under way with respect to the implementation of the Secretary-General's policy of zero tolerance regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, both at Headquarters and in the field. We encourage the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly leading to a comprehensive approach to victims' assistance by 31 December 2005.

166. We encourage the Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization.

167. We strongly condemn all attacks against the safety and security of personnel engaged in United Nations activities. We call upon States to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel<sup>42</sup> and stress the need to conclude negotiations on a protocol expanding the scope of legal protection during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

#### **System-wide coherence**

168. We recognize that the United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources on global issues. We commend the extensive experience and expertise of the various development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in their diverse and complementary fields of activity and their important contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the other development objectives established by various United Nations conferences.

169. We support stronger system-wide coherence by implementing the following measures:

#### *Policy*

- Strengthening linkages between the normative work of the United Nations system and its operational activities
- Coordinating our representation on the governing boards of the various development and humanitarian agencies so as to ensure that they pursue a coherent policy in assigning mandates and allocating resources throughout the system
- Ensuring that the main horizontal policy themes, such as sustainable development, human rights and gender, are taken into account in decision-making throughout the United Nations

#### *Operational activities*

- Implementing current reforms aimed at a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better-performing United Nations country presence with a strengthened role for the senior resident official, whether special representative, resident coordinator or humanitarian coordinator, including appropriate authority, resources and accountability, and a common management, programming and monitoring framework
- Inviting the Secretary-General to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities so that they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including proposals for consideration by Member States for more tightly managed entities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment

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<sup>42</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

*Humanitarian assistance*

- Upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and ensuring that humanitarian actors have safe and unhindered access to populations in need in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws
- Supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response, inter alia, by improving the timeliness and predictability of humanitarian funding, in part by improving the Central Emergency Revolving Fund
- Further developing and improving, as required, mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities, under the auspices of the United Nations, for a timely response to humanitarian emergencies

*Environmental activities*

- Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building, we agree to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies

**Regional organizations**

170. We support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter, and therefore resolve:

(a) To expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations through formalized agreements between the respective secretariats and, as appropriate, involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council;

(b) To ensure that regional organizations that have a capacity for the prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping consider the option of placing such capacity in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System;

(c) To strengthen cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields.

**Cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments**

171. We call for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national and regional parliaments, in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the Millennium Declaration in all fields of the work of the United Nations and ensuring the effective implementation of United Nations reform.

**Participation of local authorities, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations**

172. We welcome the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes and stress the importance of their continued engagement with Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations in these key areas.

173. We welcome the dialogue between those organizations and Member States, as reflected in the first informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

174. We underline the important role of local authorities in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

175. We encourage responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact.

**Charter of the United Nations**

176. Considering that the Trusteeship Council no longer meets and has no remaining functions, we should delete Chapter XIII of the Charter and references to the Council in Chapter XII.

177. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995 and recalling the related discussions conducted in the General Assembly, bearing in mind the profound cause for the founding of the United Nations and looking to our common future, we resolve to delete references to “enemy States” in Articles 53, 77 and 107 of the Charter.

178. We request the Security Council to consider the composition, mandate and working methods of the Military Staff Committee.

*8th plenary meeting  
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# General Assembly

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## Sixty-fourth session

Item 114 of the provisional agenda\*

### Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

## Climate change and its possible security implications

### Report of the Secretary-General\*\*

#### *Summary*

Both governmental views and relevant research on the security implications of climate change, by and large, approach the question from a perspective of interdependence between human vulnerability and national security. They identify five channels through which climate change could affect security:

- (a) **Vulnerability:** climate change threatens food security and human health, and increases human exposure to extreme events;
- (b) **Development:** if climate change results in slowing down or reversing the development process, this will exacerbate vulnerability and could undermine the capacity of States to maintain stability;
- (c) **Coping and security:** migration, competition over natural resources and other coping responses of households and communities faced with climate-related threats could increase the risk of domestic conflict as well as have international repercussions;
- (d) **Statelessness:** there are implications for rights, security, and sovereignty of the loss of statehood because of the disappearance of territory;
- (e) **International conflict:** there may be implications for international cooperation from climate change's impact on shared or undemarcated international resources.

\* A/64/150 and Corr.1.

\*\* The delay in the submission of the present report was due to extensive gathering of views of Member States and United Nations organizations on which the report is based in a short period of time between the adoption of the resolution mandating the report (3 June 2009) and the submission date.



Climate change is often viewed as a “threat multiplier”, exacerbating threats caused by persistent poverty, weak institutions for resource management and conflict resolution, fault lines and a history of mistrust between communities and nations, and inadequate access to information or resources.

The present report identifies several “threat minimizers”, namely conditions or actions that are desirable in their own right but also help to lower the risk of climate-related insecurity. These include climate mitigation and adaptation, economic development, democratic governance and strong local and national institutions, international cooperation, preventive diplomacy and mediation, timely availability of information and increased support for research and analysis to improve the understanding of linkages between climate change and security. Accelerated action at all levels is needed to bolster these threat minimizers. Most urgently, a comprehensive, fair and effective deal in Copenhagen will help to stabilize our climate, protect development gains, assist vulnerable nations adapt to climate change and build a more secure, sustainable and equitable society.

Beyond this, the report identifies a set of emerging climate change-related threats which merit the focused attention and increased preparedness of the international community, namely, those that appear highly likely, are large in magnitude, may unfold relatively swiftly, and are unprecedented in nature, including: loss of territory, statelessness and increased numbers of displaced persons; stress on shared international water resources, for example, with the melting of glaciers; and disputes surrounding the opening of the Arctic region to resource exploitation and trade. This is not an exhaustive list, as new challenges may warrant the attention of the international community in future.

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## I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to the request of Member States, in General Assembly resolution 63/281, for a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the possible security implications of climate change, based on the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations. A total of 35 Member States, 4 Member State groups, and 17 regional and international organizations, including agencies and programmes of the United Nations, have made submissions to the Secretariat in reference to that resolution,<sup>1</sup> and the report endeavours to reflect those views in the light of the relevant research.

2. The nature and full degree of the security implications of climate change are still largely untested. The present report seeks to organize the views of Member States as well as relevant research on the subject in a framework that is evidence-based, drawing on the most recent available data and research, and most conducive to policy guidance. Its goal is to outline the possible channels through which adverse implications for human or national security might occur, what form they could take, and what combinations of actions could avert them. Its policy focus is first and foremost on ways in which possible security implications of climate change could be prevented.

3. The emphasis on prevention is consistent with the efforts of the United Nations to move from a culture of reaction to one of conflict prevention, as well as its emphasis on sustainable development as a crucial contributor to conflict prevention. Advancing sustainable development, building resilience to physical and economic shocks, and strengthening institutions will pay a double dividend — helping to confront climate change and promoting peace and security.

4. Authoritative studies of the economics of climate change such as *The Stern Review*<sup>2</sup> find that the costs of preventing dangerous climate change, while not trivial, are far outweighed by the eventual costs of unmitigated climate change. That result, moreover, does not take into account the difficult-to-measure but real costs of such “socially contingent” impacts of climate change as social and political instability, conflicts and involuntary migration, or the measures taken in response to these. Were those to be included, the cost advantage of prevention would be even greater — a message broadly consistent with my argument in successive reports that the prevention of violent conflict is far more cost-effective than remediation (see A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1; A/58/365-S/2003/888; and A/60/891).

5. Before examining the evidence on climate change and its security implications, a brief introduction is needed on definitional and methodological questions, namely, the concepts of human vulnerability and national security and the treatment of uncertainty.

6. The principal focus in the present report is on the security of individuals and communities. It reflects the spirit of many submissions from Member States and is

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<sup>1</sup> Submissions of those Member States that have not indicated otherwise are posted on the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development at [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_docugaecos\\_64.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docugaecos_64.shtml).

<sup>2</sup> Nicolas Stern, *The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

consistent with the suggestion of the *Human Development Report 1994* that, for ordinary people, “security symbolized protection from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflict, political repression and environmental hazards”.<sup>3</sup> There is a growing recognition, reflected in many of the submissions, of the mutual interdependence between the security of individuals and communities and the security of nation States.

7. Secondly, any analysis of climate change and its impacts, including possible security implications, must grapple with uncertainty.

8. While climate modelling has made considerable advances in forecasting the future behaviour of natural systems over long time spans, the science of climate change and its physical impacts still confronts a number of uncertainties — for example, with respect to the magnitude, geographical extent and timescale of given impacts.

9. In moving from physical to social and political processes, the degree of uncertainty increases significantly. Yet, as a sustained body of information, data, and analysis becomes available, and in particular with the greater availability of geo-spatial data, the domain of uncertainty should shrink and it should become possible to assess the probabilities of different outcomes as well as the relative contributions of different factors.

10. Given both the complexity and the magnitude of the potential consequences of the relationship between climate change and security, the present report proposes two courses of action: first, to accelerate action on potential win-win options in order that the most damaging consequences can be avoided; and secondly, to focus international attention on areas where the impacts already appear highly likely, are large in magnitude, unfold relatively swiftly, have potentially irreversible consequences (the concept of “tipping points”), impose high costs on human life and well-being, and may require innovative approaches because of their unprecedented nature (for example, loss of territory and statelessness). Many share the view that it would be advisable for the international community to keep a watching brief on these and other possible security implications of climate change.

## II. Channels linking climate change and security

11. Many Member State submissions recognize that the possible security implications of climate change need to be examined in the context of pre-existing social, economic and environmental threats, or stresses, which are key factors in the security of individuals, communities and States. These include the factors that were highlighted by the Millennium Summit — the persistence of poverty, hunger and disease; the rapid growth of informal urban settlements with substandard shelter and inadequate infrastructure and services; high unemployment, particularly of youth; and the growing scarcity of land, water and other resources.

12. The magnitude of specific threats, the resilience of individuals, communities and societies and their capacity to adapt effectively to those threats — all bear on the security implications of climate change. Where climate change threatens to human

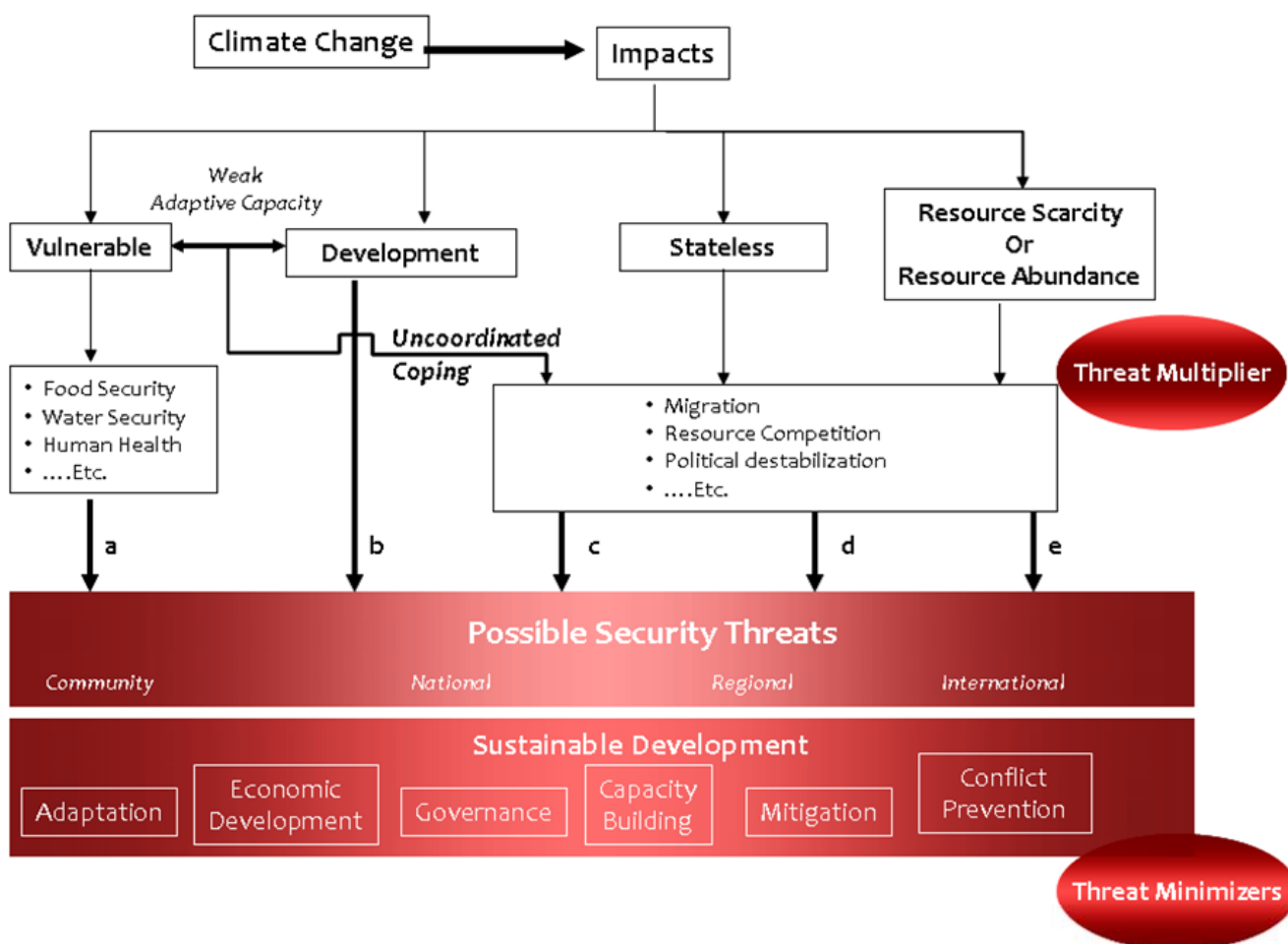
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<sup>3</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 1994* (Oxford University Press, 1994), chap. 2.

well-being are expected to be severe, particularly where people are especially vulnerable because of low levels of human development and weak institutions of governance, the security implications are apt to be most pronounced, including the possibility of social and political tensions and of armed conflicts. On the other hand, many Member States have expressed the view that threats can and should be reduced through sustainable development, including legitimate and effective governance institutions, as well as peaceful dispute resolution.

13. In this regard, it is useful to think of climate change as a threat multiplier, namely as a factor that can work through several channels (see figure below) to exacerbate existing sources of conflict and insecurity. By the same token, conditions, policies, institutions and actions which serve to relieve and manage stresses effectively can be considered threat minimizers.

**Threat multipliers and threat minimizers: the five channels**



Source: United Nations Secretariat, based on submissions of Member States and relevant organizations.

14. The first channel runs from climate change impacts to threats to the well-being of the most vulnerable communities. Submissions in this vein sometimes identify climate change as a threat to human rights. The United Nations human rights treaty

bodies all recognize the intrinsic link between the environment and the realization of a range of human rights, such as the right to life, to health, to food, to water and to housing (see A/HRC/10/61).

15. A second channel runs from climate change impacts to economic development. From this perspective, a halt to or significant slowdown of growth caused by climate change could pose a serious security threat to developing countries, not least by worsening poverty and desperation. Growth is seen as important to strengthening resilience, maintaining political stability, increasing the attractiveness of cooperation and providing hope to underprivileged populations.

16. A third channel refers to the second-order effects of unsuccessful adaptation in the form of uncoordinated coping or survival strategies of local populations. In this context, submissions have referred to involuntary migration, competition with other communities or groups over scarce resources and an overburdening of local or national governance capacities. Such trends can manifest themselves in the form of localized conflicts or spill over into the international arena in the form of rising tensions or even resource wars.

17. A fourth channel, presented in detail in the submissions from small island developing States, runs from the threat posed by climate change to the viability and even survival of a number of sovereign States, in particular through sea-level rise and the resultant loss of national territory. Principal concerns are how to minimize the risk of such loss and how to cope with the remaining risk — of statelessness, displaced populations and territorial disputes with neighbours over exclusive economic zones.

18. A fifth channel runs from climate change to changes in natural resource availability or access and the resultant competition and possible territorial disputes between countries. This may be because of worsening resource scarcities (e.g., shared waters) or the sudden expansion of shared or undemarcated resources. In the latter category is the possibility of exploiting newly accessible natural resource deposits and transport routes through the Arctic.

19. Of these five channels, the first is well researched and documented, including by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II. With regard to the second channel, the relationship between development and peace was high on the research agenda in the 1960s and 1970s (under the framework of political development) but only recently has there been renewed research interest.<sup>4</sup> There is a general consensus in the submissions that the maintenance of global peace and stability requires the continuation of the development momentum. On the third channel, extensive research has taken place under the title of environmental security, including migration pressures and environmental stress as a source of conflict. However, while this research has improved the understanding of specific situations, it has not provided clear general conclusions. In particular, the potential linkages and interplay between climate change and security issues are mediated by a number of contextual factors — including governance, institutions, access to information and external resources and availability of alternatives. Broadly speaking, the literature reveals and several submissions recognize the need for more

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<sup>4</sup> See P. Collier, "Development and conflict", Department of Economics, University of Oxford, 2004.

systematic research to distinguish between different causal and contextual factors and clarify policy options.<sup>5,6</sup>

20. There is little empirical research on the fourth channel, as it is one that poses truly unprecedented challenges to States and to the international community. Regarding the fifth channel, two observations can be made. First, the scarcity of shared resources (especially water) has often provided an incentive for transboundary cooperation. The question is how existing agreements and institutions can be reinforced so as to continue to function effectively in the face of increased scarcity. Secondly, in the case of resource abundance, there are examples of international cooperation that could be built upon, though in several countries resource abundance has been associated with domestic conflict.

21. The remainder of the report is structured around these five channels through which climate change can impact on security, namely by: increasing human vulnerability; retarding economic and social development; triggering responses that may increase risks of conflict, such as migration and resource competition; causing statelessness; and straining mechanisms of international cooperation. Section VIII looks at responses to the threats outlined in the preceding sections conceived as preventive measures designed to minimize climate change itself and its possible development and security threats. The final section suggests how the international community can prepare itself to address those serious and seemingly unavoidable threats that loom on the horizon.

### III. Threats to human well-being

22. The Fourth Assessment Report of IPCC *Climate Change 2007* is an authoritative source for the science of climate change and its impacts. Yet, recent scientific literature suggests that certain impacts may be occurring at a faster rate and/or on a larger scale than is reflected in that report.<sup>7</sup>

23. Global mean temperature has increased by around 0.74° C over the past century, and past emissions are estimated to involve some unavoidable further warming (about a further 0.6° C by the end of the century relative to 1980-1999), even if atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations were to remain at 2000 levels. If greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at their current pace and atmospheric concentrations are allowed to double from their pre-industrial level, the world faces an average temperature rise of between 1.8 and 4.0 degrees Celsius this century.

24. Global average sea level rose at a rate of 1.8 [1.3 to 2.3]<sup>8</sup> mm per year from 1961 to 2003 and at a rate of about 3.1 [2.4 to 3.8] mm per year from 1993 to 2003.

<sup>5</sup> I. Salehyan, "From climate change to conflict? No consensus yet", *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 45, No. 3 (2008). In recent years, a body of research has found a link between natural resource abundance (oil, diamonds, etc.) and violent conflict, yet the hypothesized link from climate change to conflict often runs through resource (water, land) scarcity.

<sup>6</sup> H. Bulhaug and others, *Implications of Climate Change for Armed Conflict*, Social Development Department, World Bank (Washington, D.C., 2008).

<sup>7</sup> See the proceedings of the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen from 10-12 March 2009; Congress synthesis report available from <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/pdf/synthesisreport/>.

<sup>8</sup> Numbers in brackets represent 90 per cent confidence intervals around a best estimate. Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report and Summary for Policymakers.

In the past decade and a half, thermal expansion of the oceans has contributed about 57 per cent of the total sea-level rise, with decreases in glaciers and ice caps contributing about 28 per cent and losses from the polar ice sheets contributing the remainder.<sup>9</sup> Projections of the response of the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are still highly uncertain, but new research suggests sea-level rise of a metre or more by 2100.<sup>7</sup>

25. There is evidence of an increase in intense tropical cyclone activity in the North Atlantic since about 1970, with more limited evidence of increases elsewhere. IPCC projects a likely increase in tropical cyclone activity with further warming and, with less confidence, a global decrease in tropical cyclone numbers. There will also very likely be precipitation increases in high latitudes and will likely be precipitation decreases in most subtropical land regions, continuing observed recent trends.<sup>10</sup>

26. The impacts of climate change on human well-being will depend in the first instance on the actions of the international community to control greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change. It is for this reason that the world needs a climate change deal in Copenhagen that is science-based, comprehensive, balanced and equitable and fair for the future of human beings.

27. Even with an ambitious agreement, the world is already set to experience some climate change over the coming century and beyond. Without such a deal, climate change and its impacts are likely to be much farther reaching and more severe. Those impacts depend also on individuals' and communities' degree of exposure, vulnerability and adaptive capacity. Adaptive capacity in turn depends on a number of factors, including the income, health and education of the population, social capital, the effectiveness of government and other institutions, and, especially for the most vulnerable developing countries, the availability of external resources to support adaptation, as pointed out in a number of submissions.

28. The impacts of climate change on human well-being can work through several pathways, including impacts on: food production and food security, for example, linked to water scarcity, land degradation, and desertification; health and the incidence of various vector-borne diseases; the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including flooding, drought and tropical storms; and sea-level rise. The last two types of impact have particularly severe consequences for human settlements and population displacement. The more dependent are people on climate-sensitive forms of natural capital, the more at risk are they from climate change.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Contribution of Working Group I to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers, Sect. 3.

<sup>10</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, chap. 4, sects. 4.6, 4.8 and chap. 5, sect. 5.5.

<sup>11</sup> J. Barnett and W. Adger, "Climate change, human security and violent conflict", in *Political Geography: Special Issue on Climate Change and Conflict*, R. Ragnhild Nordås and N. P. Gleditsch, editors, vol. 26, No. 6 (August 2007).

29. The table below provides a summary from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report of the major impacts of climate change.

### Examples of possible impacts of climate change

Examples of possible impacts of climate change due to changes in extreme weather and climate events, based on projections to the mid- to late 21<sup>st</sup> century. These do not take into account any changes or developments in adaptive capacity. The likelihood estimates in column two relate to the phenomena listed in column one. (Table 3.2)

Phenomenon <sup>a</sup> and direction of trend	Likelihood of future trends based on projections for 21 <sup>st</sup> century using SRES scenarios	Examples of major projected impacts by sector			
		Agriculture, forestry and ecosystems	Water resources	Human health	Industry, settlement and society
Over most land areas, warmer and fewer cold days and nights, warmer and more frequent hot days and nights	<i>Virtually certain<sup>b</sup></i>	Increased yields in colder environments; decreased yields in warmer environments; increased insect outbreaks	Effects on water resources relying on snowmelt; effects on some water supplies	Reduced human mortality from decreased cold exposure	Reduced energy demand for heating; increased demand for cooling; declining air quality in cities; reduced disruption to transport due to snow, ice; effects on winter tourism
Warm spells/heat waves. Frequency increases over most land areas	<i>Very likely</i>	Reduced yields in warmer regions due to heat stress; increased danger of wildfire	Increased water demand; water quality problems, e.g. algal blooms	Increased risk of heat-related mortality, especially for the elderly, chronically sick, very young and socially isolated	Reduction in quality of life for people in warm areas without appropriate housing; impacts on the elderly, very young and poor
Heavy precipitation events. Frequency increases over most areas	<i>Very likely</i>	Damage to crops; soil erosion, inability to cultivate land due to waterlogging of soils	Adverse effects on quality of surface and groundwater; contamination of water supply; water scarcity may be relieved	Increased risk of deaths, injuries and infectious, respiratory and skin diseases	Disruption of settlements, commerce, transport and societies due to flooding; pressures on urban and rural infrastructures; loss of property
Area affected by drought increases	<i>Likely</i>	Land degradation; lower yields/crop damage and failure; increased livestock deaths; increased risk of wildfire	More widespread water stress	Increased risk of food and water shortage; increased risk of malnutrition; increased risk of water- and food-borne diseases	Water shortage for settlements, industry and societies; reduced hydropower generation potentials; potential for population migration
Intense tropical cyclone activity increases	<i>Likely</i>	Damage to crops; windthrow (uprooting) of trees; damage to coral reefs	Power outages causing disruption of public water supply	Increased risk of deaths, injuries, water- and food-borne diseases; post-traumatic stress disorders	Disruption by flood and high winds; withdrawal of risk coverage in vulnerable areas by private insurers; potential for population migrations; loss of property
Increased incidence of extreme high sea level (excludes tsunamis) <sup>c</sup>	<i>Likely<sup>d</sup></i>	Salinisation of irrigation water, estuaries and fresh-water systems	Decreased fresh-water availability due to saltwater intrusion	Increased risk of deaths and injuries by drowning in floods; migration-related health effects	Costs of coastal protection versus costs of land-use relocation; potential for movement of populations and infrastructure; also see tropical cyclones above

Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, table SPM.3.

Notes:

- <sup>a</sup> Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report, table 3.7, for further details regarding definitions.
- <sup>b</sup> Warming of the most extreme days and nights each year.
- <sup>c</sup> Extreme high sea level depends on average sea level and on regional weather systems. It is defined as the highest 1 per cent of hourly values of observed sea level at a station for a given reference period.
- <sup>d</sup> In all scenarios, the projected global average sea level at 2100 is higher than in the reference period. The effect of changes in regional weather systems on sea level extremes has not been assessed.

30. All of these impacts may lead to increased poverty and the reversal of development achievements, including progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. As many least developed countries are both highly exposed and highly vulnerable to climate change, and as the poor within countries are usually the most vulnerable, climate change is likely to exacerbate inequalities both between and within countries.

## A. Agriculture and food security

31. Cereal productivity is expected to decrease in low latitudes (see table above), and Africa and South Asia face especially high risks of reduced crop productivity. In some African countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 per cent by 2020.<sup>12</sup> Food security is likely to suffer and the risk of hunger to increase. Poor people in developing countries are particularly vulnerable given their dependence on agriculture for their livelihoods, often farming marginal lands. Among them, women, children, the elderly and disabled as well as indigenous people and minorities are disproportionately affected since they usually represent the most economically and socially marginalized groupings.

32. The serious impacts of the recent global food price crisis on food security and malnutrition in vulnerable countries is suggestive of what might occur, possibly on a much larger scale, in the event of future food shortages exacerbated by climate change. Social protests and unrest occurred in a number of countries and cities around the world. These impacts are not limited to changes in developing countries. One of the triggering factors in the recent food crisis was the drought and crop failure in Australia, which is not only a major world exporter of food grains but also susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

## B. Water

33. According to projections, the number of people at risk from increasing water stress will be between 0.4 billion and 1.7 billion by the 2020s, between 1.0 billion and 2.0 billion by the 2050s and between 1.1 billion and 3.2 billion by the 2080s.<sup>13</sup> Increased water stress will be especially prominent in drylands, which are home to over 2 billion people or 35 per cent of the world's population and approximately half of all people living in poverty.<sup>14</sup> Water insecurity linked to climate change threatens to increase malnutrition by 75-125 million people by 2080.<sup>15</sup>

34. Widespread mass losses from glaciers and reductions in snow cover over recent decades are projected to accelerate throughout the 21st century, reducing water availability and hydropower potential and changing seasonality of flows in regions supplied by melt-water from major mountain ranges (e.g., Hindu-Kush, Himalaya, Andes).<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, sect. 3.3.2.

<sup>13</sup> B. C. Bates and others, editors, *Climate Change and Water*, IPCC Technical Paper (Geneva, June 2008).

<sup>14</sup> John Morton and Simon Anderson, "Climate change and agrarian societies in drylands", 2008.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2006: Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis* (2006). Available from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR06-complete.pdf>.



35. Reliable access to freshwater is a necessary prerequisite for ensuring the human habitability of islands. Small-island developing States are highly vulnerable to worsening water scarcities. By mid-century, climate change is expected to reduce water resources in many small islands to the point where they become insufficient to meet demand during low-rainfall periods.<sup>16</sup> As shifts in rainfall patterns are expected to increase the frequency and intensity of droughts, a single prolonged drought can have serious consequences and can lead to the rapid depletion of an island's surface and groundwater resources.<sup>17</sup>

### **C. Health**

36. The lack of access to safe drinking water is a major cause of morbidity and disease. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 2.2 million people die each year from diarrhoea, mostly infants and young children. As WHO notes, higher temperatures and too much or too little water can each facilitate the transmission of diarrhoea. As noted above, climate change is expected to increase rainfall variability in some areas.

37. Besides reinforcing conditions for the transmission of diarrhoea, climate change is expected to have a number of other negative health impacts: disease susceptibility from malnutrition; death, injury and disease from extreme weather events; heat stress and cardiovascular illness from elevated ground-level ozone in urban areas; and the number of people at risk of dengue fever. There may also be positive health impacts, for example, fewer deaths from cold exposure; and mixed effects, for example, with respect to range and transmission potential for malaria.<sup>18</sup> Overall, it is expected that the negative effects will outweigh the positive ones, especially in developing countries.

38. The negative health effects will be felt disproportionately in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East. Such health impacts in turn can reduce resilience and the capacity of individuals and communities to adapt to climate change.

### **D. Coastal areas, human settlements and infrastructure**

39. Climate change, in particular rising sea levels, could make entire areas uninhabitable. Coastlines are particularly vulnerable to inundation and shoreline erosion, which also lead to freshwater shortages and disease outbreaks. Given that over a third of the world's population lives in coastal zones within 100 km of the shore, the effects on human settlements could be highly disruptive.<sup>19</sup>

40. Rapid urbanization, especially in coastal cities and cities in mega-deltas, has increased human vulnerability to climate change significantly, as underlined in a number of submissions. The number of people living in cities in developing

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<sup>16</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, sect. 3.3.2.

<sup>17</sup> Contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, chap. 16, executive summary.

<sup>18</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, sect. 3.3.1.

<sup>19</sup> UNEP, *Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: A synthesis report based on the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Summit* (2006).

countries is predicted to rise from 43 per cent in 2005 to 56 per cent by 2030.<sup>20</sup> Millions more people than today are expected to be flooded each year by 2080.<sup>21</sup> In Asia, the coastal and poor mega-cities of Chennai (2005: population 6.9 million), Dhaka (12.4 million), Karachi (11.6 million), Calcutta (14.3 million) and Mumbai (18.2 million) are located only a few metres above sea level. In West Africa, the 500 km of coastline between Accra (Ghana) and the Niger delta (Nigeria) is expected to become a continuous urban megalopolis of more than 50 million inhabitants by 2020.<sup>22</sup> In North Africa, the Nile Delta is one of the most densely populated areas of the world and is highly vulnerable to sea-level rise.

41. The new migrants from rural areas are usually poor and many live in substandard housing in informal settlements, often on fragile hillsides or riverbanks that are highly exposed to extreme weather events (see A/HRC/10/61). The most direct risks are from flooding and landslides as a result of increases in rainfall intensity and from sea-level rise and storm surges in coastal areas.<sup>23</sup>

42. Sea-level rise from climate change is projected not only to expose coastal areas to increased risks, including coastal erosion and flooding, but also to cause loss of habitat and livelihood for people. One recent study of sea-level rise and storm surges finds very heavy potential losses associated with a 1-m sea-level rise and storm surges concentrated in a few countries within each region, with highly vulnerable cities clustered at the low end of the international income distribution.<sup>24</sup>

43. Extreme weather events such as tropical storms, together with sea-level rise, will increase the risk of damage to coastal infrastructure and productive assets. Saltwater intrusion may not only damage arable land but also threaten water supplies. The degradation of coastal ecosystems owing to climate change, such as wetlands, beaches and barrier islands, removes the natural defences of coastal communities against extreme water levels during storms. One quarter of Africa's population is located in resource-rich coastal zones and a high proportion of gross domestic product is exposed to climate-influenced coastal risks.<sup>25</sup>

44. In small island developing States, sea-level rise is expected to exacerbate inundation, storm surge, erosion and other coastal hazards, threatening vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities that support the livelihoods of island communities.<sup>26</sup> In the Caribbean and Pacific islands, more than 50 per cent of the population lives within 1.5 km of the shore. Almost without exception, international airports, roads and capital cities in the small islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the Caribbean are sited along the coast, or on tiny coral islands.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.6); and *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2005 Revision*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP/200 (2005).

<sup>21</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, sect. 3.3.1.

<sup>22</sup> *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2005 Revision*, see note 20 above.

<sup>23</sup> Contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, chap. 7, sect. 7.1.4.

<sup>24</sup> S. Dasgupta and others, "Sea-level rise and storm surges: a comparative analysis of impacts in developing countries", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4901, April 2009.

<sup>25</sup> Contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, chap. 6, sect. 6.4.2.

<sup>26</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, sect. 3.3.2.

<sup>27</sup> Contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, chap. 16, executive summary.

## IV. Threats to economic development

45. Several submissions highlighted that climate change can cause a number of economic disruptions, negatively impacting growth, eroding the revenue base of Governments and undermining governance capacities. It may negatively affect an economy's output, as with crop losses from drought or flooding. Through its effects on nutrition and health, it may diminish human and animal productivity. It may also contribute to land degradation and cause damage to other natural capital — for example, in coastal areas — and man-made infrastructure such as roads, ports, power grids, and so forth, diminishing an economy's productive potential.

46. Economies that are most heavily dependent on their primary sectors — notably agriculture, fisheries and forests — and those tropical countries which depend heavily on tourism, notably the small-island developing States, are most exposed to negative economic impacts.

47. Larger, more developed and diversified economies are better able to absorb climate impacts because the economic output of sectors and locations with low levels of vulnerability to climate change greatly exceeds that of sectors and locations with high levels of vulnerability.<sup>28</sup> The same is not true of smaller, less diversified economies, where a larger share of the economy may be vulnerable to climate impacts.<sup>28</sup>

48. For developing countries relying on a limited number of primary products at risk from climate impacts — for example, single crop agriculture and fisheries, declining productivity of those sectors will have an adverse impact on growth prospects.<sup>28</sup> One study suggests, for example, that a temperature increase of 2° C could render much of Uganda's Robusta coffee-growing area unsuitable for coffee cultivation.<sup>29</sup>

49. Sea-level rise, increased risk of extreme weather events and damage to coral reefs and other coastal ecosystems will have an adverse effect on tourism and fisheries, on which many small-island developing States and other developing countries depend economically.<sup>30</sup>

50. The impacts of climate change on international trade remain speculative but could be significant. Rising sea-levels could require heavy investment in flood defences around ports and major industrial installations located near such deep-water ports may need to be relocated inland. Stronger winds, storm surges and rainfall point to the need for sturdier ships and offshore oil and gas installations.<sup>31</sup> All these factors are likely to raise transport costs. On the other side, the melting of Arctic ice and the opening of hitherto non-navigable sea lands could lower those costs for high-latitude countries.

51. For those developing countries whose economies depend heavily on natural capital adversely impacted by climate change, government finances would likely be

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., chap. 7, sect. 7.4.1.

<sup>29</sup> O. Simonett, "Potential impacts of global warming", Global Resource Information Database (GRID)-Geneva, case studies on climatic change, Geneva, 1989.

<sup>30</sup> Where climate-related risks are still insurable, the costs of such insurance will rise and, for high-risk environments, insurance may no longer be available in future. In developing countries, it is not available even today for many economic activities at risk.

<sup>31</sup> *The Stern Report*, note 2 above, box 5.7.

diminished. In extreme cases, this could undermine institutional capacities and the provision of core public services. As several submissions have pointed out, in the case of countries characterized by fragile States and internal tensions, increased climate-induced environmental stress could overstretch existing coping strategies and, in combination with a number of political, economic, and societal factors, could result in: (a) growing tensions over increasingly scarce natural resources; (b) decreased State authority and increased risk of domestic strife;<sup>6</sup> and (c) political instability and radicalization.

52. Areas for further research include the degree of exposure of different economies to climate change damages, the dependence of States on revenues gained from climate-sensitive natural resources (agriculture, fisheries, forestry), and the determinants of an economy's capacity to diversify.<sup>11</sup>

## V. Threats from uncoordinated coping

53. Much of the concern for the security implications of climate change relates to the possible consequences of large-scale and/or rapid disruptions to economies, societies and ecosystems. In that event, adaptive capacities of individuals, communities and even nation States may be severely challenged if not overwhelmed. In that event, uncoordinated coping and survival strategies may come to prevail, including migration and competition for resources, possibly increasing the risks of conflict. As the research shows and submissions acknowledge, it is not possible to say with a high degree of confidence whether and when climate impacts might induce large-scale involuntary migration and/or violent conflict. It depends on many complex local conditioning factors.

### A. Population displacement and involuntary migration

54. For millennia, migration has been a human adaptive strategy in the face of poverty, resource scarcity, ethnic or religious tensions, violent conflict or other push factors. Local environmental change is another push factor. Although economic and political factors are the dominant drivers of displacement and migration today, climate change is already having a detectable impact.<sup>32</sup> The scale of migration and displacement, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise with climate change, as is the proportion of population movements considered "involuntary". However, estimates of the number of people who may become migrants as a result of climate change cover a wide range and are highly uncertain.<sup>33</sup> Forecasts of the number of persons that may have to migrate owing to climate change and environmental degradation by 2050 vary between 50 million and 350 million.<sup>34</sup>

55. In the foreseeable future, the majority of those displaced by the effects of climate change, whether as the result of sudden-onset hydro-meteorological

<sup>32</sup> K. Warner and others, *In Search of Shelter: Mapping the Effects of Climate Change on Human Migration and Displacement*, May 2009, report for the United Nations University Institute for Environmental and Human Security, CARE, Center for International Earth Science Information Network of Columbia University, UNHCR and the World Bank.

<sup>33</sup> Contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, box 7.2.

<sup>34</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Policy Brief*, "Migration, climate change and the environment" (May 2009).

disasters or environmental degradation, are likely to remain within the borders of their country of origin. However, some displacement will also take place across internationally recognized national borders.<sup>35</sup>

56. The bulk of climate change-related human displacement and migration, especially that resulting from loss of arable land and/or water, will add to the number of urban dwellers in developing countries. The challenges to urban adaptation are, therefore, likely to increase substantially as are, if left unattended, the vulnerabilities of poor urban residents.

57. As noted in several submissions, in the case of small island developing States, the adverse impacts of climate change are already increasing the rate of domestic migration and relocation, with people from rural areas and outlying islands moving to urban centres as they lose their livelihoods and lands owing to natural disasters and sea-level rise. This migration is placing enormous strains on food, housing, education, health, and water supplies, as recipient communities struggle to accommodate the number of people migrating. Recent examples of internal relocation include the settlement of Lateau, in the northern province of Torba in Vanuatu, which had to be relocated because of rising sea levels. Further relocations have happened in the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands.

58. The future prospect of large-scale climate-related migration and displacement, however uncertain, raises the issue of how those affected are to be treated under international humanitarian law. Presently, no internationally accepted term or legal framework exists for people who migrate voluntarily or are forced to move for environmental reasons. Although terms such as “environmental refugee” or “climate change refugee” are commonly used, they have no legal basis.

59. Arguably, article 33 (1) of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees prohibits a State from forcing people who move owing to environmental factors to return to their original State, or denying them entry at the border, if their life would be threatened as a consequence. However, this principle of international law does not provide for an indefinite right to stay in the admitting State. Thus a new and climate-focused legal framework would be necessary to protect persons displaced by climate change, especially when there may be no home territory to which to return, as with submerged island States (see box III).

60. Displaced persons who remain within their own country qualify as “internally displaced persons”, and the 1998 United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Guiding Principles) provide the normative framework for addressing protection challenges in situations of internal displacement. The Guiding Principles define “internally displaced persons” as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”.

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<sup>35</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, “Forced displacement in the context of climate change: challenges for states under international law”, paper submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2009.

61. There are many cases of mass population movements owing to climate variability, particularly in Africa (Sahel, Ethiopia) but also in South America (Argentina, Brazil), and in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran). One recent study analysing 38 cases since the 1930s in which environmental factors played a role in mass migration and displacement concludes that 19 of them resulted in some form of conflict.<sup>36</sup> The study states that environmental factors that “push” people to migrate include degradation of arable land, droughts, deforestation, water scarcity, floods, storms and famines. The study also acknowledges that the environmental factors do not work in isolation, but can contribute to a pre-existing migration flow. Conflict may arise when migrants, particularly those of a different nationality or ethnicity, move quickly or in large numbers into neighbouring States that are either already suffering from conflict or have limited resources and coping mechanisms. Tension can also mount when an influx of migrants contributes to alterations in habitat and resource availability in receiving areas and when grievances of environmentally vulnerable communities in those areas go unanswered.<sup>37</sup> Property claim disputes and increased demands on limited publicly funded health and social systems can also generate frictions.

62. A study of civil wars between 1945-2005 finds that, of 103 ethnic conflicts, 32 involved violence between members of a regional ethnic (minority) group that considers itself to be the indigenous “sons-of-the-soil” and recent migrants from other parts of the country.<sup>38</sup> While the motives of these migrations are various, the negative dynamic between migrants and indigenous groups raises concerns in the event of intensified climate-induced migration.

63. Societies differ greatly in their capacity to manage population movements and assimilate migrants, and a capacity adequate to manage moderate and/or gradual flows may be overwhelmed by massive and/or sudden flows. Adequately planning for and managing environmentally induced migration will be critical.<sup>37</sup> For sending communities, the loss of human capital that can accompany such outward migration may leave them unable to maintain basic social services and productive activities. These constraints can in turn lead to further migration pressures.<sup>37</sup>

## **B. Threat of intra-State conflict**

64. The empirical evidence on the relationship between climate change and conflict remains sparse and largely anecdotal. This is beginning to change, as researchers link climate models and conflict models. Still, modelling climate change accurately at a fine-grained geographic scale remains a major challenge. Likewise with conflict, even with improved models and data, it remains very difficult to predict conflict occurrences and events.

65. As climate change is expected to affect rainfall variability, water resource availability, land degradation and land availability, studies often look for historical evidence of a significant link between these and different types of conflict or violence — including inter-State conflict and violence within borders of different

<sup>36</sup> R. Reuveny, “Climate change-induced migration and violent conflict”, in *Political Geography*, see note 11 above.

<sup>37</sup> International Organization for Migration, Discussion note: Migration and the Environment (MC/INF/288), November 2007.

<sup>38</sup> J. D. Fearon and D. D. Laitin, “Sons of the soil, migrants and Civil War”, Stanford University.

kinds: one-sided violence, intra-State violence between groups, and unorganized violence.<sup>39</sup> A variety of local socio-economic, environmental and political factors, including adaptive capabilities, condition the results.

66. One recent empirical study of climate change and conflict using geo-referenced data finds that water and land scarcity are only weak predictors while high population density is a consistently strong predictor of armed conflict. Also, the interaction between population growth and water scarcity proves to be significant.<sup>40</sup> Still, political instability and other factors appear to be more important predictors of conflict.

67. That said, the fact that quantitative studies fail to confirm statistically significant links between environmental factors and conflict does not mean they do not exist. Rather, environmental factors may exacerbate conflict dynamics and risk through multiple and indirect pathways, interacting in complex ways with social, political, and economic factors, which tend to be more direct and proximate drivers of armed conflict.

68. A recent United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) study<sup>41</sup> highlights that the potential consequences of climate change for water availability, food security, prevalence of disease, coastal boundaries, and population distribution may aggravate existing tensions and generate new conflicts.<sup>42</sup>

#### Box I

#### **Climate change and security in Africa**

Africa will be hard hit by climate change. Projected climatic changes for Africa suggest a future of increasingly scarce water, falling agricultural yields, encroaching desert and damaged coastal infrastructure. The continent, with the largest share of least developed countries, is less endowed than other regions with the adaptive capacities — technology, institutions, and financial resources — to buffer and cope with climate impacts.

Africa is often seen as a continent where climate change could potentially intensify or trigger conflict. Among the reasons given are the continent's reliance on climate-dependent sectors (such as rain-fed agriculture), recent ethnic and political conflict, and fragile States. Africa is also undergoing extremely rapid urbanization and population growth — already home to 14 per cent of the world's human population, a figure that is projected to rise to 25 per cent by 2050.

The continent is entering a demographic transition, with a large share of young persons in the population. In other regions, for example, Asia, this transition has helped to drive the process of economic growth

<sup>39</sup> Special issue of *Political Geography*, vol. 26, No. 6 (2007), on climate change and conflict contains a number of important empirical contributions.

<sup>40</sup> C. Raleigh, H. Urdal, "Climate change, environmental degradation and armed conflict", in *Political Geography*, see note 11 above.

<sup>41</sup> UNEP, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment* (Nairobi, 2009), *Executive summary*, p. 5.

<sup>42</sup> UNEP, *Sudan: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment* (Nairobi, 2007).

and industrialization. For that to happen, millions of jobs will need to be created each year for the rapidly growing ranks of urban youth. Will Africa follow this path, or will these rapid changes, combined with climate shocks, provide more fertile ground for insecurity and conflict?

69. More than one sixth of the world's population currently lives in areas that rely for their freshwater supplies on glacier and snow melt-water from major mountain ranges (for example, Hindu-Kush, Himalaya, Andes).<sup>43</sup> As explained above, climate change is projected to affect negatively water availability in those areas over the twenty-first century. In the Andean region, for instance, there is concern that the decline of freshwater supply brought about by melting glaciers may spark tension and social unrest, based on what has happened in the past.

#### Box II

##### **Melting of the Himalayan glaciers**

The Himalayas, called the "Water Tower of Asia", have the largest concentration of glaciers outside the polar caps. The glacier-fed rivers originating from the Himalaya mountain ranges surrounding the Tibetan Plateau comprise the largest river run-off from any single location in the world.<sup>44</sup> The rivers that drain these mountains move through some of the most populous areas in the world. In the year 2000, the river basins of the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze, and Huang He (Yellow) Rivers collectively supported a population of 1.4 billion people, or almost a quarter of the world's population.

Himalayan glaciers are already in retreat.<sup>45</sup> Their dependence on glacier run-off makes downstream populations particularly vulnerable to the consequences. The Indus River valley supports one of the largest irrigation works in the world. Approximately 90 per cent of Pakistan's crop production is grown under irrigation, and all of the water comes from barrages along the Indus. The Ganges, Yangtze, and Yellow Rivers also have large areas under irrigation.

It is suggested that the accelerated melting of glaciers will cause an increase in river levels over the next few decades, initially leading to higher incidence of flooding and land-slides.<sup>46</sup> But, in the longer-term, as the volume of ice available for melting diminishes, a reduction in glacial run-off and river flows can be expected.<sup>47</sup> In the Ganges, the loss of glacier melt-water would reduce July-September flows by two thirds,

<sup>43</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, sect. 3.3.1.

<sup>44</sup> UNEP-GRID Arendal Map Gallery. Available at <http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/water-towers-of-asia-glaciers-water-and-population-in-thegreater-himalayas-hindu-kush-tien-shan-tib>.

<sup>45</sup> N. Kehrwald and others, "Mass loss on Himalayan glacier endangers water resources", *Geophysical Research Letters*, vol. 35, No. 22, 2008.

<sup>46</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report*.

<sup>47</sup> Z. Wanchang and others, "A monthly stream flow model for estimating the potential changes of river runoff on the projected global warming", *Hydrological Processes*, vol. 14, No. 10 (2000).



causing water shortages for 500 million people and 37 per cent of India's irrigated land.<sup>48</sup> Should flow reductions become acute, the potential for mass migration out of irrigated areas could be significant.<sup>49</sup>

70. One major study<sup>50</sup> identifies three regions in which increased migration induced by climate change could pose the risk of heightened tensions and conflict: South Asia (in particular low-lying and densely populated Bangladesh), sub-Saharan Africa (in particular Nigeria, where migration may lead to exacerbation of the conflict in the Niger delta, and East Africa, where migration would take place in a context of weak and failing states and a range of unresolved political issues) and Europe (with respect to an expected upsurge in immigrants from other regions, exacerbating existing tensions).

## VI. Threat of loss of territory and statelessness

71. In the case of some small island developing States, sea-level rise presents perhaps the ultimate security threat, jeopardizing the very existence of small low-lying countries such as the Maldives, where 80 per cent of land is less than one metre above sea level<sup>51</sup> and could therefore disappear over the next 30 years. In 2005, Papua New Guinea's Carteret Islands reportedly became the first low-lying islands to evacuate their population because of climate change, resettling 2,600 islanders to the larger Bougainville Island.<sup>34</sup> The Carterets are among the hardest hit islands in the Pacific and may be completely submerged by as early as 2015. Given the particular vulnerability of Pacific small island developing States, a single extreme weather event can suddenly exceed a nation's capacity to respond, rendering whole islands, particularly low-lying atolls, uninhabitable.<sup>52</sup> Many island States face the prospect of loss of significant amounts of territory to sea-level rise and inundation, and some face the prospect of complete submersion, with the resultant threat of statelessness of their populations.

72. In view of the fact that statelessness has not yet arisen, however, the international law principle of prevention of statelessness would be applicable and the threats implied by mass statelessness for the concerned populations could be minimized. Multilateral comprehensive agreements would be the ideal preventive mechanism, providing where, and on what legal basis, affected populations would be permitted to move elsewhere, as well as their status.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>48</sup> WWF Nepal Programme, "An Overview of Glaciers, Glacier Retreat, and Subsequent Impacts in Nepal, India and China", 2005.

<sup>49</sup> Asia: Glacier melt and irrigated agricultural systems, in *In Search of Shelter*, note above, sect. 3.1.

<sup>50</sup> K. Campbell and others, *The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change* (Washington, D.C., Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2007), chap. III.

<sup>51</sup> UNEP, "Atlantic and Indian Oceans Environment Outlook" (2005).

<sup>52</sup> Contribution of WGII to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, executive summary.

<sup>53</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, supported by IOM and the Norwegian Refugee Council, "Climate change and statelessness: an overview", note submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2009.

## Box III

**Small island developing States and international legal issues regarding statelessness**

Islands becoming uninhabitable or disappearing as a result of sea-level rise raise the issue of the legal status of the citizens and legal rights of these States, including over fisheries.

With the disappearance of territory, one of the key constituting elements of statehood, it is not clear that these States would continue to exist as such. The same would apply if the territory would be uninhabitable to such an extent that the entire population and the Government would be forced to relocate to other States. In the event that statehood is deemed to have ceased in such a scenario, the populations concerned would be left stateless unless they acquired other nationalities. Even where the States continued to exist in legal terms and their Governments attempted to function from the territory of other States, it is unclear that they would be able to ensure the rights which flow from citizenship.

Legal and political arrangements may be necessary for the protection of affected populations. One option is the acquisition of land within another State, by purchase or a treaty of cession. There is precedence for such an option: in the late nineteenth century, many Icelanders left Iceland for environmental and social reasons. They entered into an agreement with the Canadian Government and were given land in which they could form a provisional Government, and were given both Canadian and Icelandic citizenship. Eventually, the settlement was fully integrated into Canada. This example shows that there are international mechanisms by which stateless migrants can be protected and accommodated.

73. Climate change poses a fundamental threat to cultural survival for those societies whose territories and ways of life are threatened by sea-level rise and inundation, as noted by small island developing States. Some Member States have noted that other cultures, for example, those of indigenous peoples, may be at risk from destruction or radical alteration of ecosystems and habitat by climate change. Such peoples may also face challenges in using migration as a coping strategy as a result of discrimination in receiving locations.<sup>54</sup> Thus the impacts of climate change on vulnerable societies will need to be addressed not only as an issue of sovereignty and statelessness but also as a threat to cultural identity.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>54</sup> M. Macchi and others, "Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Climate Change", IUCN Issues Paper, March 2008.

## VII. Threats to international cooperation in managing shared resources

74. Climate change has potential for affecting international relations among countries through possible conflicts of interest over the use of transboundary water or other resources that become increasingly scarce as a result of climate change. The need to share common waters has historically tended to foster cooperation among States, even those which may be historical rivals (e.g., South Asian countries sharing major river basins such as the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra, and African countries sharing the Nile and Zambezi). There is thus some basis for optimism that inter-State cooperation could be reinforced by the challenges posed by climate change, but there is also concern that intensified scarcity could impose heavy strains on such cooperation.<sup>55</sup>

### Box IV The Indus Waters Treaty

A water-sharing treaty of the Indus System of Rivers was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960. The treaty has survived two major wars between the rivals and governed the sharing of a strategic river.<sup>56</sup>

Today, both countries are plagued by water stress — strained by demand from booming populations — and there is increased competition for the Indus' dwindling resources. While the major river basins in South Asia are all vulnerable to the unpredictable effects of climate change, the Indus' flow is uniquely dependent on the seasonal runoff from shrinking Himalayan glaciers. This poses new challenges for cooperation under the Indus Treaty, and efforts will be needed at all levels to ensure its continued effectiveness.<sup>57</sup>

75. Rising sea levels and submersion of large areas will result in the loss of territory, including the loss of entire low-lying islands leading to forced population relocation, possible statelessness (see box IV above), and disputes over territory that have to be dealt with within the realm of international law. This could impact current disputes over maritime sovereignty, such as in the South China Sea, and could create new ones.

76. Rapidly receding Arctic sea ice could enable access to previously inaccessible natural resource deposits and maritime transport routes.

<sup>55</sup> S. Hazarika, "South Asia: sharing the giants — water sharing of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers", *UNESCO Courier* (October 2001).

<sup>56</sup> W. Wheeler, "The Water's Edge", *GOOD Magazine* (July 2009).

<sup>57</sup> W. Wheeler and A.-K. Gravgaard, "South Asia's troubled waters", dispatches from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, 2009.

**Box V****Legal and security implications of melting Arctic sea ice**

The rapid melting of the Arctic sea ice may create new challenges for the health and security of Arctic ecosystems and indigenous peoples. It has stimulated interest in exploiting the potentially significant oil and gas resources that may become accessible, as well as in opportunities presented by the opening of new shipping routes. There are potentially overlapping claims to economic rights over certain areas of the Arctic seabed. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the legal framework for the establishment of maritime zones, including the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelves of coastal States, where those shelves extend beyond 200 nautical miles.

There are presently some unresolved disputes among a number of Arctic States as to the legal status of certain shipping routes. The current legal framework is well developed and nearly universally adhered to and recognized. The Arctic States are also Member States to the Arctic Council, which provides a forum for discussion and fosters the process and spirit of cooperation. Cooperation could be further strengthened.

**VIII. Preventing and responding to emerging threats**

77. If climate change acts as a threat multiplier, then what are the threat minimizers? Broadly speaking, there are five which emerge from the submissions: effective international and national mitigation actions, supported by finance and technology flows from developed to developing countries; strong support to adaptation and related capacity-building in developing countries; inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, which will be critical to building resilience and adaptive capacity; effective governance mechanisms and institutions; and timely information for decision-making and risk management. International cooperation will also need to be reinforced to address transboundary effects and to prevent and resolve climate-related conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Most submissions highlight the central role of sustainable development in enhancing adaptive capacity and as the overarching framework to address existing vulnerabilities that may be exacerbated by climate change.

**A. Mitigation**

78. IPCC finds that achieving greenhouse gas stabilization levels associated with holding the global mean temperature increase below 2-2.4°C will require that emissions peak by 2015 and decline steeply thereafter, with a decline in emissions relative to 2000 levels of 50-85 per cent by 2050.<sup>58</sup> Some of the most vulnerable countries have criticized a 2°C target as not ambitious enough. They are already

<sup>58</sup> New science suggests that a percentage reduction at the lower end of the range is very unlikely to keep temperature rise below 2° C.

suffering the effects of sea-level rise owing to the present temperature increase and are likely to lose some of their territories under a 2°C scenario. Clearly, stringent emission reductions are required to keep temperature increases as low as possible. This will require much greater levels of ambition than are currently evident from the sum total of national actions.

79. It is critical that Member States take action to address climate change in ways that bolster security and strengthen the multilateral system. First and foremost, this requires reaching a comprehensive, fair and effective deal in Copenhagen that will help to stabilize our climate; catalyse the transformation to clean energy, lower-emissions economies; protect development gains; assist vulnerable communities in adapting to climate impacts; and build more secure, sustainable and equitable societies. Failure to deliver progress on what is now widely perceived as the defining challenge of our age may risk undermining confidence in the multilateral system more broadly.

80. Mitigation on the scale needed will require, inter alia, moving swiftly towards low-carbon energy sources, as well as major advances in energy efficiency and conservation, and a dramatic slowing in deforestation rates. All this must be achieved while ensuring that the many millions of poor people currently without access to modern energy services are able to afford access to them. Several Member States have emphasized that technology transfer and financial assistance from developed countries are vital to enable developing countries to move swiftly towards low-carbon development.

## **B. Adaptation**

81. Adaptation involves making people secure and safeguarding social and economic development in the face of climate change threats. Key elements include food security, health and safety. Adaptation requires empowering people, building their resilience, securing livelihoods, and putting in place or strengthening the physical infrastructure to protect against extreme weather events as well as the institutions and systems needed to cope with their consequences. Effective adaptation will require not only effective local action but also national coordination, supported by vigorous international cooperation and, in the case of vulnerable developing countries, by adequate resources from developed countries.

82. Critical actions to enhance food security in vulnerable environments include: developing new drought- and heat-tolerant crop varieties; conserving and better managing scarce water resources; combating land degradation and soil erosion; reducing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.<sup>59</sup> Promoting sustainable agricultural practices that sequester carbon in the soil is particularly promising because it simultaneously mitigates climate change while increasing agroecosystems' resilience and protection against extreme weather events and declines in farm productivity. Because poor farmers in the tropics will be disproportionately affected by climate change, low-cost and effective practices that sequester soil carbon can also contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

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<sup>59</sup> FAO, "Climate change and adaptation and mitigation in the food and agricultural sector", technical background document for the expert consultation held from 5-7 March 2008 of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, p. 4.

83. The actual impact of climate change on human health and well-being will depend critically on the performance of public health systems and other supporting infrastructure, especially in developing countries. Improved climate-sensitive disease surveillance is critical to measure, evaluate, anticipate and respond to the effects of climate on health.<sup>60</sup> Public awareness, the effective use of local resources, adequate funding, appropriate governance arrangements and community participation are necessary to mobilize and prepare for impacts of climate change on public health systems.<sup>61</sup>

84. Tackling the threat of climate change in risk-prone areas will need a strengthening of disaster risk management, risk reduction and preparedness. Policies outlined in the Hyogo Framework<sup>62</sup> address issues related to disaster risk reduction, which are relevant in the adaptation context. Given the high exposure of coastal areas to climate risks, integrated coastal and marine resource management is a valuable approach to building resilience and strengthening natural defences against storm surges. Regional and international insurance or financing facilities to help countries hit by natural disasters are relatively new<sup>63</sup> and their further development warrants consideration.

### **C. Economic growth and sustainable development**

85. Sustaining economic growth is essential to strengthening resilience and ensuring that developing countries and their people are adequately equipped to adapt to climate change. Broad-based economic growth also tends to foster social cohesion and limit risks of social conflict. Any serious compromise of national or subnational growth prospects from climate change could, in some situations, increase risks of social discord and conflict. Therefore, many Member States place great importance on “climate-proofing” economic development, to minimize the chances that climate change will interfere with economic progress and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals as well as the maintenance of social and political stability.

86. Several submissions highlight the importance of integrated climate change policymaking that cuts across economy, society and the environment and across all sectors, and the mainstreaming of climate change into economic development and sustainable development plans and policies and poverty reduction strategies, ensuring that climate change considerations are built right into the foundations of plans to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

87. For some countries, in particular low-lying atolls, inundation and the loss of land from sea-level rise pose a potential threat to the continued existence of the States themselves. The potentially affected Member States have put forward the

<sup>60</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Synthesis Report, table 4.1; and K. L. Ebi (2008), “Public Health Adaptation to Climate Change in Low-Income Countries”, presentation at Brookings Institution Conference, Washington, D.C.

<sup>61</sup> Contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, chap. 8, sect. 8.6.

<sup>62</sup> Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2010: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005.

<sup>63</sup> The African, Caribbean and Pacific States-European Union Natural Disaster Facility and Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility are two such initiatives.

view that, for them, no amount of sustainable development can protect against the security implications of climate change and that development itself becomes meaningless when there is no longer any sovereign territory with which it can be associated.

#### **D. Effective governance mechanisms and institutions**

88. Factors such as governance and effective institutions at the local, national, regional and international levels are crucial in lessening any possible security risks posed by climate change.

89. Governments, in cooperation with civil society, need to ensure — and build if necessary — the capacity to lead and execute an effective and coordinated national climate change strategy. Should climate change increase resource scarcities, cause localized food shortages, and/or intensify natural disasters, this could stretch existing State capacities in many countries. Thus, many developing countries would stand to benefit from a comprehensive programme of institutional capacity-building for climate change adaptation, including institutions for prevention, mediation and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In the absence of such institutional strengthening, and in the event of failure by Governments to respond effectively to their people's needs in the face of climate-related disasters, political legitimacy could be undermined.

90. Adaptive capacity needs to extend across all levels of government and all sectors of society. Addressing the impacts of climate change will require broad public engagement. As those impacts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in societies, it is imperative that these groups are empowered and involved in all stages of planning, decision-making and implementation of measures to tackle climate change.

#### **E. Information for decision-making and risk management**

91. Improved data and information on climate change and its impacts at the local and regional levels are needed for sound and informed decision-making on response and adaptation measures. While the scientific findings of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report provide useful information at the global and regional level, they tend to lack the resolution and specificity required for detailed analysis and decision-making at the country or lower level. In this regard, several Member States suggest, in the context of future climate change negotiations, the establishment of a work programme to support the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action that would address research and systematic observation needs.

92. Enhanced earth observation and climate monitoring systems are essential, and there is an urgent need to make the information they produce available to decision makers in developing countries. It is important to strengthen the relevant observation networks such as the Global Climate Observing System and the ongoing work on the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

93. Technical cooperation and assistance is required to strengthen meteorological services and early warning systems, which can serve as a useful tool to help countries to respond to extreme weather events and minimize damages and loss of

human life. Integrating the hard science of climate change with local knowledge is necessary in order to provide those who are the most vulnerable with the tools needed to respond and adapt. Affordable information and communications technologies can be an effective means of getting timely information to people facing climate-related risks at the local level.

94. Finally, increased support for research and analysis on the security implications of climate change is needed, especially through stronger linkages between physical and social models.

## **F. Reinforcing international cooperation**

95. Safely managing the multiple transboundary effects of climate change will require multilateral approaches. These will include adherence to and observance of existing frameworks, and new modes and frameworks for international cooperation as necessary. A number of areas that could require multilateral responses have been highlighted above, including the question of: migrants from climate-related causes; statelessness, including issues such as displaced persons and States' rights over maritime zones; reinforcing cooperative mechanisms to deal with changed international resource availability, as with the management of transboundary waters and of Arctic resources.

96. Experience shows, as noted above, that natural resource scarcity can foster international cooperation, and I urge Member States to look at cooperative approaches as the only way of safely managing the transboundary effects of climate change.

97. Should tensions emerge in connection with the effects of climate change — regarding, for example, water and land issues — preventive diplomacy and mediation are likely to be critical for managing the issues and fostering peaceful outcomes. Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations will have a key role in addressing dialogue and mediation needs, and supporting those efforts.

## **IX. The way forward**

98. The international community has a number of vital roles to play to bolster security in the face of climate change. First, it must take bold action on climate change mitigation, for without slowing the rate of climate change, the threats to human well-being and security will greatly intensify. The importance to the future of the planet of forceful mitigation action cannot be overstated.

99. Secondly, the international community must provide stronger support to climate change adaptation in developing countries, including through investments in capacity-building at all levels. As the impacts of climate change range over many sectors, the support to adaptation needs to be correspondingly broad. It needs to address: water scarcity, food security and agricultural resilience; the functioning of public health systems to deal with increased disease incidence and risk; disaster prevention, preparedness and response; early warning systems at both the national and regional levels for various climate change impacts. Where national capacities are overstretched by devastating cyclones, floods, droughts or other hazard events, there will be an increasing requirement of the international community to respond.



100. Thirdly, the international community needs to redouble its efforts to ensure the sustainable and equitable development of all countries, notably through developed countries' meeting their international commitments on development assistance. This is all the more imperative in the midst of the current global economic difficulties, which have threatened to set back the development progress of recent years in many developing countries. Continued economic growth is important to minimizing vulnerabilities to climate change. As the present report has repeatedly stressed, poor countries are among the most vulnerable, and the best way to reduce their vulnerability is to help to lift them out of poverty. Moreover, developing countries will need firm international financial and technological support to facilitate their development along a low-carbon path.

101. Fourthly, the international community must anticipate and prepare itself to address a number of largely unprecedented challenges posed by climate change for which the existing mechanisms may prove inadequate:

- One is the possibility of large numbers of persons displaced across borders by climate change, which existing international law cannot adequately address, especially if they have no country to which to return.
- A second is the prospect of "statelessness" of citizens of submerged island nations, which raises important legal issues concerning national sovereignty, claims over marine resources, and the rights and relocation of citizens of such territories. Legal and political arrangements may be necessary for the protection of affected populations.
- A third is the prospect of the drastic reduction in water availability to hundreds of millions of the world's people as a result of the melting of mountain glaciers and snow pack. How can neighbouring countries dependent on the same water sources sustain and even strengthen their cooperative management of shared waters in the face of these challenges, and what support can the international community provide?
- Finally, there is the prospect of intensified competition over newly accessible Arctic natural resources and trade routes. An institutional framework exists that could be strengthened, or new cooperative arrangements forged.

102. Climate change is a global challenge that can only be tackled at a global level. Several submissions of Member States stress that there is an opportunity to increase policy coherence and cooperation across the United Nations system, as well as with other relevant organizations. The efforts to mainstream climate change within United Nations activities must continue and be strengthened. There is a need to improve the flow of information and sharing of assessments, particularly on early warning, between different regional and international organizations. The United Nations system may also need to review further and enhance its capacity to respond to an anticipated growth in disasters and humanitarian crises related to climate change.

103. All the submissions agree that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remains the central United Nations body responsible for conducting climate change negotiations. Beyond that, Member States express a variety of views on institutional questions, which can be found in their submissions on the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_docugaecos\\_64.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docugaecos_64.shtml)).

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104. A number of submissions highlight the need for further research to shed clearer light on causal pathways and conditioning factors that may help to explain why, in different situations, broadly similar physical impacts of climate change may have very different implications for human well-being and security. How likely are climate change impacts, in a given context, to give rise to migration pressures, to increase social tensions and the risk of violent conflict, and to weaken the capacities of States and other institutions? What preventive measures can be taken by national Governments and civil society to minimize the threats posed by climate change to human well-being, development and security? Finally, how can the international community best prepare itself for possible emerging challenges such as large-scale population displacement, statelessness, and strains on cooperative arrangements for the management of international resources?

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## Sixty-fourth session

Agenda items 48 and 114

### **Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

#### **Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit**

## **Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015**

### **Report of the Secretary-General\***

#### *Summary*

This report, which is issued pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/184, presents information on progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals through a comprehensive review of successes, best practices and lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, and challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action. It consists of four main sections. The introduction examines the importance of the Millennium Declaration and how it drives the United Nations development agenda. The second section reviews progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, presenting both shortfalls and successes in the global effort and outlines emerging issues. The third section sums up lessons learned to shape new efforts for accelerating progress to meet the Goals and identifies key success factors. The fourth and final section lists specific recommendations for action. The report calls for a new pact to accelerate progress in achieving the Goals in the coming years among all stakeholders, in a commitment towards equitable and sustainable development for all.

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\* In preparing this report, reference is made to many other reports, including: “Consensus for maternal, newborn and child health” (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2009); *The Millennium Development Goals 2009* (United Nations, 2009); *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group* (June 2008); *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations Millennium Project, 2005); *Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010* (United Nations, 2010); and others. Invaluable inputs were received from the different funds, programmes, agencies and departments of the United Nations that have been working closely with Governments, civil society and the private sector over the past decade to advance progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.



## I. Introduction

1. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration<sup>1</sup> in 2000 by 189 States Members of the United Nations, 147 of which were represented by their Head of State, was a defining moment for global cooperation in the twenty-first century. The Declaration captured previously agreed goals on international development, and gave birth to a set of concrete and measurable development objectives known as the Millennium Development Goals. Spurred by the Declaration, leaders from both developed and developing countries committed to achieve these interwoven goals by 2015.

2. The Millennium Development Goals are the highest profile articulation of the internationally agreed development goals associated with the United Nations development agenda, representing the culmination of numerous important United Nations summits held during the previous decade, including summits on sustainable development, education, children, food, women, population and social development. They are the world's quantified, time-bound targets for addressing extreme poverty, hunger and disease, and for promoting gender equality, education and environmental sustainability. They are also an expression of basic human rights: the rights of everyone to good health, education and shelter. The eighth Goal, to build a global partnership for development, includes commitments in the areas of development assistance, debt relief, trade and access to technologies.

3. During the past decade, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals have led to unprecedented commitments and partnerships reaffirmed in successive summits and meetings, including the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey, Mexico, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the 2005 World Summit in New York. During this same period, the public and their Governments have also had to contend with new unanticipated challenges. Some have been specific to countries or regions, while others have been global, such as the food and economic crises of the last three years.

4. Our challenge today is to agree on an action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. With five years to go to the target date of 2015, the prospect of falling short of achieving the Goals because of a lack of commitment is very real. This would be an unacceptable failure from both the moral and the practical standpoint. If we fail, the dangers in the world — instability, violence, epidemic diseases, environmental degradation, runaway population growth — will all be multiplied.

5. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals remains feasible with adequate commitment, policies, resources and effort. The Millennium Declaration represents the most important collective promise ever made to the world's most vulnerable people. This promise is not based on pity or charity, but on solidarity, justice and the recognition that we are increasingly dependent on one another for our shared prosperity and security.

6. The Millennium Development Goals provide a historic framework for focus and accountability. This fabric of accountability, however, is being tested and will need to be further strengthened to achieve the Goals by 2015. This is all the more important as the Goals are crucial stepping stones towards equitable and sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

development for all. Meanwhile, the devastating impact of climate change looms large, and the international community is facing the challenge of working together to ensure the end of extreme poverty and sustainable development to save the planet and its people, especially the most vulnerable.

7. This report calls on all stakeholders, including national Governments, donor and other supportive Governments, the business community and civil society at large, to work in concert to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are met by 2015. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Goals in September 2010 will provide a unique opportunity to strengthen collective efforts and partnerships for the push to 2015. The present report assesses achievements and shortfalls thus far, and suggests an action agenda for the period from 2011 to 2015.

## II. Progress so far

8. A number of countries have achieved major successes in combating extreme poverty and hunger, improving school enrolment and child health, expanding access to clean water and access to HIV treatment and controlling malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. This has happened in some of the poorest countries, demonstrating that the Millennium Development Goals are indeed achievable with the right policies, adequate levels of investment, and international support. Considering their historical experience, some poor countries and even whole regions have made remarkable progress. For example, sub-Saharan Africa has made huge improvements in child health and in primary school enrolment over the past two decades. Between 1999 and 2004, sub-Saharan Africa achieved one of the largest ever reductions in deaths from measles worldwide.<sup>2</sup>

9. Nevertheless, progress has been uneven and, without additional efforts, several of the Millennium Development Goals are likely to be missed in many countries. The challenges are most severe in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, some small island developing States and countries that are vulnerable to natural hazards and recurring lapses into armed violence. Countries in or emerging from conflict are more likely to be poor and face greater constraints, because basic infrastructure, institutions and adequate human resources are often absent and lack of security hampers economic development.

10. Later this year, the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010* and MDG Gap Task Force report will assess progress on achieving the Goals. The latest update of the 60 official Millennium Development Goal indicators will be presented in an addendum to the present report, to be issued later this spring. The following section

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<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that accurately measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is sometimes difficult when precise data are not available or come with a long time lag. Furthermore, progress at the global level obscures uneven progress at the regional, country and local levels. Thus, caution is needed in interpreting aggregate data and making judgements about overall progress. Evaluating the goals, targets and indicators by country may understate progress by the poorest countries, for example, halving poverty from 60 to 30 per cent of the population is much more difficult than from 6 to 3 per cent, especially as a 20 per cent increase in per capita income from \$1,000 per annum is worth only a tenth of a similarly proportioned increase from \$10,000.

of the report assesses successes, obstacles and gaps in order to draw lessons on actions needed to achieve the Goals.

## A. A mixed picture of shortfalls and successes<sup>3</sup>

### **Progress on poverty reduction has been uneven and is now threatened**

11. According to the World Bank's much cited "dollar-a-day" international poverty line, revised in 2008 to \$1.25 a day in 2005 prices, there were still 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty in 2005, down from 1.8 billion in 1990.<sup>4</sup> However, as China has accounted for most of this decrease, without China, progress does not look very encouraging; in fact, the number of people living in extreme poverty actually went up between 1990 and 2005 by about 36 million. In sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, poverty and hunger remain stubbornly high. The number of "\$1 a day poor" went up by 92 million in sub-Saharan Africa and by 8 million in West Asia during the period 1990 to 2005.<sup>5</sup> The poverty situation is more serious when other dimensions of poverty, acknowledged at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, such as deprivation, social exclusion and lack of participation, are also considered.<sup>6</sup>

### **Hunger is increasing and remains an important global challenge**

12. Despite earlier progress, the number of hungry has been rising since 1995 and the proportion of hungry people in the global population has been rising since 2004-2006. There are still over a billion hungry people, and more than 2 billion people are deficient in micronutrients; 129 million children were underweight and 195 million under age 5 were stunted. The number of hungry people worldwide rose from 842 million in 1990-1992 to 873 million in 2004-2006 and to 1.02 billion people during 2009, the highest level ever. This was largely a result of reduced access to food because of high food prices and the global financial and economic crisis, which has led to lower incomes and higher unemployment. Rising global hunger has undermined confidence in the declining global poverty estimates, as extreme poverty is supposed to be measured in terms of the income or expenditure considered necessary to avoid hunger.<sup>7</sup> Of the 117 countries for which data are available, 63 are now on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal

<sup>3</sup> This section draws on the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.I.12) unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>4</sup> This new estimate is about 50 per cent higher than the earlier World Bank estimate of poverty in 2005, based on its earlier \$1.08/day poverty line, up from the original \$1/day line in 1993 prices. Using 1993 as the baseline, and adjusting for consumer price inflation in the United States of America, would suggest a poverty line in 2005 of \$1.45, rather than the \$1.25 used by the Bank.

<sup>5</sup> The food and fuel crises in 2007-2008 and the global financial and economic crisis have made the situation worse. The World Bank estimates that 100 million people in low-income countries were pushed deeper into poverty as a result of a doubling of food prices. According to the World Bank's *Global Economic Prospects 2010*, globally, and notwithstanding upward revisions to growth projections for 2010, the number of people living on \$1.25 per day or less is still expected to increase by some 64 million as compared with a no-crisis scenario.

<sup>6</sup> See *Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.IV.10).

<sup>7</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World: Economic Crisis: Impacts and Lessons Learned* (Rome, 2009).

underweight target, compared with 46 countries in 2006. Most of the 20 countries that have made no visible progress are in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>8</sup>

### **Target for full and decent employment for all remains unfulfilled**

13. Even though there is no deadline for meeting the target of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, no country can claim to have reached this target. Economic growth in many countries over the past decades did not produce rapid job growth, prompting the term “jobless growth”. The lack of progress in creating productive and decent jobs in urban areas, together with stagnant farm productivity in many rural areas, have been the key reasons for the persistence of poverty and the rise in the number of working poor. It is estimated that in 2008, some 633 million workers (21.2 per cent of the workers in the world) lived with their families on less than \$1.25 per person per day. As a result of the economic and financial crisis, it is estimated that in 2009 this number increased by up to 215 million, including 100 million in South Asia and 28 million in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>9</sup> This suggests that up to an additional 7 per cent of workers were at risk of falling into poverty between 2008 and 2009.

14. Over 300 million new jobs will need to be created over the next five years to return to pre-crisis levels of unemployment.<sup>10</sup> The unemployed need more than just jobs; they need decent work that will give them adequate income and rights. The unemployment rate for young people (aged between 15 and 24 years) has risen faster than the overall unemployment rate worldwide. It reached as much as 14 per cent in 2009, an increase of 1.9 percentage points since 2008.<sup>9</sup>

### **Progress on universal access to education, but the goal remains unmet**

15. There has been remarkable progress towards achieving universal primary education in developing countries since 2000, with many countries having crossed the 90 per cent enrolment threshold.<sup>11</sup> Enrolment in primary education has increased fastest in sub-Saharan Africa, from 58 per cent in 2000 to 74 per cent in 2007. However, the rapid rise in enrolment may cause pressure on the capacity of schools and teachers to deliver quality education.

16. Around 126 million children are still involved in hazardous work, and more than 72 million children of primary school age around the world, about half of them in sub-Saharan Africa, remain out of school. Furthermore, dropout rates remain high in many countries, implying that achieving 100 per cent primary school completion rates remains a challenge.

17. Inequalities continue to pose major barriers to attaining universal primary education. Children from the poorest 20 per cent of households account for over 40 per cent of all out-of-school children in many developing countries. In most developing countries, children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households have

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Development Group, MDG Gap Task Force, “MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: review of progress, 2000-2010”, available at <http://www.undg.org/docs/10816/MDG-1.doc>.

<sup>9</sup> International Labour Organization, *Global Employment Trends*, January 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., “Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact”, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session (Geneva, June 2009).

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009*.

already achieved universal primary education, while those from the poorest quintile have a long way to go.<sup>11</sup> Income-based disparities intersect with wider inequalities: children from rural areas, slums and areas affected by or emerging from conflict, children with disabilities and other disadvantaged children face major obstacles in accessing good quality education.

### **Insufficient progress on gender equality**

18. Redressing gender inequality remains one of the most difficult goals almost everywhere, with implications that cut across many other issues. The root causes of gender disadvantage and oppression lie in societal attitudes and norms and power structures, as identified in the Beijing Platform for Action.

19. The share of national parliamentary seats held by women has increased only slowly, averaging 18 per cent as at January 2009. While this is far from the 30 per cent target envisioned in the Beijing Platform for Action, it represents a rise from 11 per cent 10 years earlier, a significantly greater increase than the 1 per cent increase between 1975 and 1995. Still, at the present rate it will take another 40 years for developing countries to reach between 40 and 60 per cent share of parliamentary seats for women.<sup>12</sup>

20. The gender gap in primary school enrolment has narrowed in the past decade, albeit at a slow pace. In developing countries in 2007, over 95 girls of primary school age were in school for every 100 boys, compared with 91 in 1999. Progress in secondary schooling has been slower, and in some regions, gaps are widening. In sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage of enrolment of girls compared with boys in secondary education fell from 82 per cent in 1999 to 79 per cent in 2007. Only 53 of the 171 countries with available data had achieved gender parity in both primary and secondary education, 14 more than in 1999.<sup>13</sup>

21. While participation of women in the labour force has increased, there are still significant gender gaps in participation rates, occupational levels and wages. Paid employment for women has expanded slowly and women continue to assume the largest share of unpaid work. Close to two thirds of all employed women in developing countries work as contributing family workers or as workers on their own account, typically in forms of employment that are extremely vulnerable and lack job security and benefits. Women's share of waged non-agricultural employment has increased in the last decade but only marginally, and women have generally failed to get decent jobs. In the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, for example, the share of females in total employment is below 30 per cent.<sup>14</sup>

22. Violence against women remains a major blight on humanity everywhere. While there have been increased initiatives to address violence against women, such efforts are often not comprehensive, consistent, sustained or well-coordinated.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women, *Progress of the World's Women, 2008/2009*.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Development Group, MDG Gap Task Force, "MDG-3: Promote gender equality and empower women", available at [www.undg.org/docs/10821/MDG-3.doc](http://www.undg.org/docs/10821/MDG-3.doc).

<sup>14</sup> World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2009*, annex, Monitoring the MDGs: selected indicators.



### Significant progress on some health-related Millennium Development Goals

23. Deaths among children under five years of age have been reduced from 12.5 million per year (1990) to 8.8 million (2008).<sup>15</sup> The number of people in low- and middle-income countries receiving antiretroviral therapy for HIV increased 10-fold in five years (2003-2008),<sup>16</sup> and there has been significant progress in reducing deaths from measles and providing interventions to control tuberculosis and malaria. More than 500 million people are now treated annually for one or more neglected tropical diseases.

24. Nonetheless, based on current trends, many countries are unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goal health targets by 2015. The child mortality rate in developing countries fell from 99 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 72 in 2008.<sup>15</sup> This is well short of the target of a two-thirds reduction (to 33 deaths per 1,000 live births). Furthermore, the rate of improvement has been uneven both among and within countries. Most noteworthy is the lack of progress in reducing deaths during the first month after birth (the neonatal period). Globally, 36 per cent of deaths among children under 5 years of age happen in this period.

25. The number of new HIV infections was 2.7 million in 2008, a decline of 30 per cent from the peak of 3.5 million in 1996. Meanwhile, the proportion of people receiving antiretroviral therapy increased from less than 5 per cent of those in need at the beginning of the decade to 42 per cent in 2008, and the number of women receiving treatment for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV trebled, from 15 per cent in 2005 to 45 per cent in 2008.<sup>16</sup>

26. This progress has not yet been enough, however, to reverse the trajectory of the epidemic, because interventions for prevention and treatment often fall short in coverage: for every two people starting antiretroviral treatment, there are five new HIV infections. Prevention has not received sufficient priority.

27. Moreover, in 2008 only 21 per cent of pregnant women received HIV testing and counselling, while only one third of those identified as HIV-positive during antenatal care were subsequently assessed for eligibility to receive antiretroviral therapy for their own health.<sup>17</sup> The voluntary family planning needs of persons living with HIV and their access to services are not routinely monitored. These problems are most pressing in sub-Saharan Africa, where the prevalence of HIV is, by far, the highest. Elsewhere, HIV epidemics are mostly concentrated within key populations that are at greater risk, including injecting drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men.

28. The global incidence of tuberculosis appears to have peaked in 2004, and is now falling slowly in most parts of the world (except in African countries with a high prevalence of HIV). However, the burden of tuberculosis remains high. The epidemic of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis is a major concern, with growing evidence of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis.

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<sup>15</sup> See [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org).

<sup>16</sup> Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, *AIDS Epidemic Update 2009*.

<sup>17</sup> World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and United Nations Children's Fund, *Towards Universal Access*, progress report (September 2009).

29. Approximately 250 million malaria episodes occurred in 2008, leading to approximately 850,000 deaths;<sup>18</sup> about 90 per cent of these deaths occurred in Africa, most among children under 5 years of age. However, major progress in increasing key malaria control interventions with a proven impact on the number of cases and deaths has been documented in many countries and areas. Approximately 200 million nets, out of the more than 340 million nets needed to achieve universal coverage (defined here as one net for every two people), were delivered to countries in Africa during the period 2004 to 2009. Use of insecticide-treated nets by children (one of the most vulnerable groups) rose from just 2 per cent in 2000 to 22 per cent in 2008 in a subset of 26 African countries with trend data (covering 71 per cent of the under-5 population in Africa), with 11 of these countries achieving at least a tenfold gain.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Least progress in reducing maternal mortality**

30. Access to reproductive health services remains poor where women's health risks are greatest. Deliveries attended by skilled health workers in developing regions have increased since 1990, from 53 per cent in 1990 to 61 per cent in 2007, but there has been little progress in reducing maternal deaths; maternal mortality declined only marginally, from 480 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 450 in 2005. At this rate, the target of 120 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015 cannot be achieved. As part of broader investment in public health programmes, adequate financing for maternal health, especially dedicated to ensure safe deliveries, is critical.

31. Adolescent pregnancy rates have declined most in countries where initial levels were relatively low, while high adolescent fertility has persisted in many countries. The adolescent birth rate is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the rate of 123 births per 1,000 teenage girls was almost twice that of Latin America and the Caribbean, the second ranked region.

32. Unsafe abortions continued to account for one out of eight maternal deaths in 2005, despite increased contraceptive use among married women and women in unions. Nevertheless, 11 per cent of women in developing countries (including 24 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa) who want to delay or stop childbearing are not using contraception.

#### **Limited progress on environmental sustainability**

33. Some progress has been achieved towards the target of halving the proportion of people without access to clean water, but the proportion without improved

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<sup>18</sup> World Health Organization, *World Malaria Report 2009*.

<sup>19</sup> Prompt and effective treatment is critical for addressing life-threatening complications from malaria. Anti-malarial treatment for children with fever is moderately high across Africa, although many febrile children are still being treated at home and with less effective medicines. Only four African countries currently have trend data for the use of artemisinin-based combination therapies among febrile children, which is the first-line treatment for uncomplicated malaria in nearly all African countries. Nevertheless, these limited data show promising gains in effective treatment coverage. Ghana, for example, increased artemisinin-based combination therapies coverage from 4 per cent in 2006 to 22 per cent in 2008, while coverage in the United Republic of Tanzania rose from 2 per cent in 2005 to 21 per cent in 2008 (World Malaria Day 2010, brochure, forthcoming (April 2010)).

sanitation decreased by only 8 percentage points between 1990 and 2006.<sup>20</sup> The goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers has proved to be much less ambitious than necessary to reverse the trend of increasing numbers of slum dwellers.

34. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has resulted in the production and use of over 98 per cent of all controlled ozone-depleting substances being successfully phased out. In contrast, the rate of growth of carbon dioxide emissions was much higher during the 1995-2004 period than during the 1970-1994 period, and that trend has not changed. While net deforestation rates have decreased, some 13 million hectares of the world's forests are still lost each year, including six million hectares of primary forest.<sup>14</sup> This loss has been only partially compensated for by afforestation. As a result, worldwide, around 7 million hectares of forest cover is lost every year.

35. The target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 has not been met. In the latest reports submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, many Governments admit that the target will be missed at the national level. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has reported that nearly 17,000 plant and animal species are known to be threatened with extinction. Major threats and drivers of biodiversity loss, such as over-consumption, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and climate change, are not yet being effectively tackled.<sup>21</sup>

## **B. Emerging issues and challenges**

36. This section of the present report highlights some challenges and some mitigating factors that have the potential to rollback gains and create obstacles to achieving development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The challenge is to turn the challenges into opportunities, based on a proper analysis of the underlying causes and development of appropriate policies to tackle them.

### **Climate change**

37. The most severe impacts of climate change are being experienced by vulnerable populations who have contributed the least to the problem. Addressing the climate change challenge provides opportunities for broader improvements in economies, governance, institutions and intergenerational relations and responsibilities; achieving the Millennium Development Goals should also contribute to the capacities needed to tackle climate change.

38. Switching to low greenhouse gas emitting, high-growth pathways to meet the development and climate challenges is both necessary and feasible.<sup>22</sup> Combating global warming cannot be achieved without eventual reductions in emissions by both developed and developing countries. Technological options for a shift towards

<sup>20</sup> World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation* (New York and Geneva, 2008).

<sup>21</sup> International Union for the Conservation of Nature, *Wildlife in a Changing World, 2009* (report based on the analysis of the 44,838 species on the IUCN Red List).

<sup>22</sup> *World Economic and Social Survey 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.C.1).

such pathways exist. Such a switch would entail unprecedented and costly socio-economic adjustments in developing countries. For this to happen, the shift will require much greater international support and solidarity.

39. Achieving such a transformation hinges on a global new deal capable of raising investment levels and channelling resources towards massive investment in renewable energy, and building resilience with respect to unavoidable climate changes. Most developing countries currently do not have the financial resources, technological know-how or institutional capacity to deploy such strategies at a speed commensurate with the urgency of the climate challenge. Failure to honour long-standing commitments of international support in these three areas remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the challenge of climate change.

40. Climate-resistant development is imperative, and investments to achieve it will be the main way to overcome the perception of a trade off between development and addressing climate change. Beyond existing official development assistance (ODA) commitments, adaptation and mitigation in developing countries would require financial assistance of perhaps an additional 1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of rich countries in 2015,<sup>23</sup> a small sum compared with the likely costs of inaction. Many alternative approaches — such as large-scale solar power or restoration of heavily degraded or unused land — will need to be encouraged, supported and even subsidized. Economic incentives will be required to accelerate a transition to cleaner technologies.

#### **The current crises: finance, the economy and food security**

41. Although the measures taken so far in response to the global financial and economic crisis have been able to prevent a deeper recession, they do not yet add up to a sustainable long-term solution. Little has been done to address speculative forces that caused financial markets to undermine the real sector priorities. Official international discussion of financial reforms was until recently largely focused on executive remuneration, rather than on better regulation of financial markets, let alone the impacts of the crisis on currency and commodity markets and on the trading system.

42. The global financial architecture will need to be overhauled. The failings of the financial sector certainly require improved regulatory oversight, higher buffer capital requirements, and effective and equitable measures to deal with financial institutions deemed “too big to fail”. There is also a need to make financial markets less volatile and more predictable. At the same time, these initiatives will need to be properly designed to ensure that they also help to boost both investment and private demand, as well as to make sure that the economic recovery does not collapse as soon as public efforts are withdrawn. It is also vital that recovery efforts do not resort to open or disguised protectionist measures. Productive integration of economies must proceed with an eye to increasing equity and providing social floors and other social protection.

43. Innovative measures should be used to address the food and other crises. There are many important cost-effective innovations in the field of nutrition ready to be

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<sup>23</sup> Nicholas Stern, “Deciding our future in Copenhagen: will the world rise to the challenge of climate change?”, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, policy brief (December 2009); p. 3; and *World Economic and Social Survey 2009*.

scaled up. They include complementary and supplementary nutritious food items (nutrient supplements) to address the specific needs of young children and the ill, including those living with HIV, and more diversified production of nutritious local foodstuffs. Agriculture's share of ODA — merely 4 per cent in 2006 and down from almost 20 per cent a few decades ago — should increase. There should be significant new investment in enhancing capacities of small farmers, more efficient water management technologies, restoration of soil nutrients, more stress-resistant agricultural varieties and market opportunities for small farmers.

### **Intensifying prevention of violence and responses to humanitarian crises**

44. The risk of disasters is increasing globally and is highly concentrated in middle- and low-income countries.<sup>24</sup> Reducing that risk and increasing resilience to natural hazards in different development sectors can have multiplier effects and accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations, and Communities to Disasters, endorsed by Member States, commits all countries to make major efforts to reduce their risk of disaster by 2015. The horrific loss of life in Haiti underscores the need to ensure that the human-built environment is resilient in the face of an array of potential hazards, both seismic and climatic.

45. Armed violence, conflict (inter-State, civil and criminal) and the resulting breakdown of the rule of law, justice and security are also a major threat to human security and to the hard-won Millennium Development Goal gains. Thus, there is an urgent need to focus on the root causes of conflict and armed violence and on advancing people-centred solutions. This requires strengthening institutions that monitor and mitigate conflicts, crime and violence, as well as identifying and addressing the underlying drivers, risk factors and tensions before they turn into armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. Reforms to strengthen institutions should include promoting transparency and giving voice and representation to previously underrepresented communities to make them stakeholders in the peace process.

46. What happens after conflicts are resolved is also vital. This should include promoting the rule of law, justice and security, implementing armed violence reduction strategies, early economic recovery support, rebuilding capacities, building democratic institutions and re-engaging countries in the global architecture without undermining national ownership of strategies. This period must be used more effectively to eliminate inequalities and discrimination in law and in practice, and to guarantee equal access to resources and opportunities.

### **Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable**

47. Attention must be focused on the special needs of the most vulnerable and the large and increasing inequalities in various economic and social dimensions, including geography, sex, age, disability, ethnicity and other vulnerabilities. Some urgent issues are highlighted below:

(a) Children from poor households, rural areas, slums and other disadvantaged groups face major obstacles in access to a good quality education. The literacy gap between the children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households

<sup>24</sup> United Nations, *2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and Poverty in a Changing Climate*.

and those from the poorest 20 per cent is more than 40 percentage points. Children with disabilities remain among the most marginalized and least likely to go to school;<sup>11</sup>

(b) Very young children are especially vulnerable. Children who are stunted at age 2 tend to suffer severe life-long consequences in terms of poorer health and reduced cognitive development and economic opportunities;

(c) Indigenous people are overrepresented among the poor, with their level of access to adequate health and education services well below national averages. They are especially vulnerable to environmental degradation. Indigenous peoples make up 15 per cent of the world's poor and a third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people;<sup>25</sup>

(d) Around 1.8 million children under the age of 15 in sub-Saharan Africa live with HIV, while some 12 million children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. In 56 countries for which recent household survey data are available, orphans who had lost both parents were 12 per cent less likely to be in school, and often become a head of household, assuming enormous responsibilities at an early age. The impact of being orphans may be especially severe for girls, who are generally more likely than boys not to be in school.<sup>26</sup> Children without the guidance and protection of their primary caregivers are more at risk of becoming victims of violence, exploitation, trafficking, discrimination and other abuses resulting in malnutrition, illness, physical and psychosocial trauma, and impaired cognitive and emotional development. Unaccompanied girls are at especially high risk of sexual abuse;

(e) At the end of 2008, there were some 42 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. This included 15.2 million refugees, 827,000 asylum-seekers (pending cases) and 26 million internally displaced persons. Women and girls represent 47 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers and half of all internally displaced persons and returnees. Among refugees and asylum-seekers, 44 per cent are children below 18 years of age. More than 5.7 million refugees are trapped in protracted situations for which there is limited hope of finding a solution in the near future, including some 70 per cent of refugees in Africa.<sup>27</sup> In sub-Saharan Africa, 7 out of 10 refugees reside in often isolated and insecure refugee camps, with restrictions on movements affecting employment, education and health and other services.<sup>28</sup> They become dependent on subsistence-level assistance, or less, and lead lives of poverty, frustration and unrealized potential.

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<sup>25</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, "Statistics and key facts about indigenous peoples", available at [www.ruralpovertyportal.org](http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org).

<sup>26</sup> Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "Report on the global AIDS epidemic" (2008).

<sup>27</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *2008 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons* (2009).

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, *The State of The World's Refugees 2006: Human Displacement in the New Millennium* (2006).

### III. Lessons learned for accelerating progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

#### A. Lessons learned<sup>29</sup>

##### **National ownership**

48. National ownership of development strategies is fundamental, as one-size-fits-all policies and programmes are bound to fail owing to wide variations among countries in terms of their capacity (resources, institutions, administration) and historical and geographical circumstances. Ownership is also vital to ensure national commitment to development goals. Successful countries have pursued pragmatic, heterodox mixtures of policies, with enhanced domestic capacities. Countries should therefore be encouraged to design and implement their own development strategies and to strengthen their domestic capacities. Global partnerships should support such national development strategies and domestic capacity-building efforts.

##### **Sustained and equitable growth**

49. Sustained and equitable growth based on dynamic structural economic change is necessary for making substantial progress in reducing poverty. It also enables faster progress towards the other Millennium Development Goals. While economic growth is necessary, it is not sufficient for progress on reducing poverty. The countries that were most successful in reducing extreme poverty managed to sustain high economic growth over prolonged periods, and most managed to do so by jumpstarting the growth process by increasing agricultural productivity followed by dynamic growth of modern industry and services sectors. Effective industrial policies typically underpinned the economic transformation, and high growth facilitated job creation and income growth for workers. Income growth underpinned greater resource availability, facilitating — when combined with adequate social policies — better coverage and quality of social services in support of the achievement of the other Millennium Development Goals.

##### **Macroeconomic policies**

50. Forward-looking macroeconomic policies are needed to safeguard the sustainability of public investment strategies in support of broad-based growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Macroeconomic policies should not focus narrowly on debt stabilization and curbing inflation, but should ultimately be supportive of growth of real output and employment. It is often necessary, therefore, to relax unnecessarily stringent fiscal and monetary restrictions and to use countercyclical fiscal and monetary policies to boost employment and incomes and to minimize the impact of external and other shocks on poverty. This requires countries to strengthen mobilization of domestic resources and adopt mechanisms that promote countercyclical policy responses. Enhanced international cooperation to strengthen tax revenue collection and increase sovereign debt sustainability can greatly buttress the fiscal capacities of all Governments.

<sup>29</sup> For evidence and an analytical discussion, see *Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010* and the work of the United Nations Development Group Millennium Development Goal Gap Task Force (see [www.undg.org](http://www.undg.org)). See also World Bank, *Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform* (2005).

### **Social services**

51. Ensuring universal access to social services and providing a social protection floor with wide coverage are essential to consolidate and achieve further gains in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The social consequences of economic crises have been most severe in countries where social protection systems were weakest and least adequate, made worse by their weak institutional and fiscal capacity. More importantly, when growth collapses owing to external shocks, natural disasters or health epidemics, societal cohesion may rupture, leading to civil violence. Not surprisingly, civil violence is more prevalent and also more likely to recur in poorer societies, especially where Governments are unwilling or unable to afford social protection or promote social integration. Countries should therefore have universal social protection floors in place to support the maintenance and regeneration of livelihoods, particularly of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The “social protection floor” concept promotes a set of social transfers and rights allowing individuals to access essential goods and services. Social protection schemes are not merely desirable, but are a sine qua non for inclusive development by addressing inequality and social exclusion. Social development should be considered broadly to include: support for smallholder agriculture, nutrition programmes, school meals, access to primary health and education, access to safe water and sanitation, and support for indigent, disabled and otherwise impoverished households. Food-for-work programmes can often provide a vital buffer. The provision of basic social protection schemes (like social pensions and other cash transfer programmes) for all are fiscally affordable for most developing economies,<sup>30</sup> but not for the poorest, unless they receive ample international assistance to finance such programmes.

### **Inequality**

52. Inequality and social exclusion, which limit the contribution of growth to the Millennium Development Goals, must be addressed. Inequalities of access, social protection and opportunities need to be greatly reduced. While most interventions related to the Goals primarily seek to redress inequalities in access to services (e.g., employment, health, education, water and sanitation), other interventions put greater emphasis on inequalities in social protection and economic opportunities.

### **The community**

53. Holistic, community-led strategies are more effective than stand-alone programmes. The Millennium Villages project, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with many partner institutions in civil society, academia and business, has shown that synergistic investments in agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, business development and environmental conservation can lead to rapid and considerable progress in food security, school attendance and performance, reduced hunger and improved livelihoods in a short period of time. Governments and development partners should put more emphasis on such holistic approaches in both rural and urban contexts, and should scale up successful efforts currently under way.

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<sup>30</sup> International Labour Organization, “Can low-income countries afford basic social security?” *Social security policy briefings*, No. 3 (Geneva, 2008).



### **Interventions**

54. Targeted intervention programmes, based on complementary public and private investments, have proven successful and have been crucial for progress towards achieving most Millennium Development Goals. Investments in smallholder agriculture are vital for fighting hunger; investments in schools and teachers are vital for universal primary education; investments in public health are vital for Goals 4, 5 and 6. Investments in water and sanitation are vital for Goal 7. When public investments are targeted and of sufficient scale, progress in achieving the Goals is more likely to be rapid. When public investments are not forthcoming, as in efforts to ensure maternal deliveries, then progress has been modest at best.

55. Accelerating interventions is feasible and is of paramount importance in order to speed up progress where current trends make achievement of the Millennium Development Goals unlikely. Targeted interventions can quickly improve people's lives by providing access to essential goods and services. Examples include providing subsidized agricultural inputs, scaling-up school meal programmes, eliminating user fees for education and health care, and providing conditional cash transfers to poor households. While such measures should not substitute for well-planned and managed national development strategies backed by responsive partnerships for development, they should not wait for longer-term structural transformations as delays have irreversible adverse consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable.

### **Financial support**

56. Adequate, consistent and predictable financial support, as well as a coherent and predictable policy environment, at both the national and international levels, are crucial for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Lack of adequate and predictable international financing has been an important constraint. There is an urgent need to broaden and strengthen partnerships to ensure supportive international frameworks for trade, taxation, technology and climate change mitigation and adaptation to sustain long-term human development; and for sufficient, predictable and well-coordinated financing for development, including national budgets, ODA, philanthropy, debt relief and new financing sources, instruments, arrangements and institutions.

### **Governance**

57. Governance and institutional implementation capacities at the country level, which are both development outcomes and desirable ends in themselves, can contribute to accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Countries can accelerate progress by adhering to the fundamental norms and values of the Millennium Declaration, including human rights, gender equality and democratic governance. In order to achieve the Goals, integrity, accountability and transparency are crucial for managing resources, recovering assets and combating the abuse, corruption and organized crime that are adversely affecting the poor. Democratic governance, as a process of empowering people and communities, is essential for human development. "Good governance" goals should however be pursued in conjunction with development, especially in the face of limited fiscal resources and administrative capacities. Pragmatic developmental governance reforms

to address bottlenecks in the process of accelerating development and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals should be emphasized in the short term.

### **Monitoring**

58. Better monitoring and data are vital for better design of and timely intervention in programmes and policies. It is also crucial for ensuring accountability by development partners and stakeholders.<sup>31</sup> Although slowly improving, the availability of reliable statistics for monitoring development remains inadequate in many poor countries and the challenge of building effective in-country capacity to produce better policy-relevant data remains huge. Although statistics are increasingly recognized as an indispensable tool for development, resources devoted to statistics are still very limited. With support from development partners, countries also need to increase public expenditure for national statistical systems to effectively monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other development indicators in order to better inform policy interventions.

### **Key success factors**

Key success factors<sup>32</sup> are listed below:

1. Effective Government leadership and national ownership of development strategies.
2. Effective policies to support implementation, defined in this context as laws, regulations, standards, administrative procedures and guidelines (general or specific to the Millennium Development Goals) that affect private behaviour and the conduct of service providers and others with whom they must interact.
3. Improved quantity, quality and focus of investments, financed both by domestic sources and international development assistance, based on a holistic approach, including smallholder agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, business development and environmental conservation.
4. Appropriate institutional capacity to deliver quality services equitably on a national scale, such as adequate facilities, competent staff, appropriate supplies and equipment and effective monitoring and evaluation.
5. Civil society and community involvement and empowerment, which enhances the likelihood of success by giving individuals and communities the ability to take charge of their own lives.
6. Effective global partnerships, involving all relevant stakeholders, including donor Governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and foundations, with mutual accountability of all stakeholders.

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<sup>31</sup> Millennium Development Goal tracking and monitoring at the global, regional and country levels, briefing note prepared by the Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, 27 August 2009.

<sup>32</sup> For further details, see “Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals” (United Nations Development Programme, forthcoming) and the work of the United Nations Development Group Millennium Development Goal Task Force.

7. Good governance by donors and recipients, which, inter alia, involves timely and predictable delivery of aid by donors on the one hand, and enhanced State and societal capacity of recipient countries to manage scaled-up resource flows transparently and with accountability on the other.

59. One significant achievement of the past decade is that national Governments and their partners, even in countries lagging far behind on many Millennium Development Goals, have a good sense of the programmes and interventions required to meet the Goals. The three critical challenges, in most cases, have been to have in place a feasible national scale-up plan, to obtain adequate financing based on both domestic and foreign sources, including development assistance, and to develop well-functioning delivery mechanisms for public investment and service delivery. The success stories highlight, for each Millennium Development Goal, how these critical success factors came together to produce remarkable results. While country characteristics (geographic, demographic, economic, cultural) inevitably vary and the specific interventions that have been successfully implemented differ with country specificities, the examples demonstrate these common success factors.

60. The success stories underscore the imperative of a holistic approach and confirm that positive results across the Millennium Development Goals and the broader enabling environment enhance the likelihood of sustained progress towards each of the Goals. They help define our collective accountability, but must be seen holistically. The synergies among the Goals are clear and indisputable, as demonstrated in the Millennium Villages. Taking advantage of these will reduce costs, increase effectiveness and catalyse local action. The education target, for example, requires progress on health. The health targets require progress on hunger and nutrition. The hunger target requires progress in agriculture and nutrition, and so on. There are many positive examples of integrated approaches to the Goals yielding tremendous success. We must learn from these examples and scale up successful interventions. The goals, targets and indicators of the Millennium Development Goals were conceived to reflect an integrated approach to development as worded in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

## **B. Accelerating progress**

61. The critical question today is how to dramatically increase the pace of change on the ground in the remaining five years, so that the promises of 2000 translate into real progress for the world's poorest people, particularly at this time of global economic downturn. In the light of the 2015 deadline, accelerating progress is essential; with barely half a decade left, much more accelerated progress is required, especially for the poorest countries.

62. Significant gaps still remain and many targets are not on track to being achieved in a good number of countries. Moreover, challenges persist in areas such as environmental sustainability, even in countries that have made impressive gains in reducing poverty over the past decade, including large parts of Asia. Rollbacks on progress as a result of the food, fuel and financial crises, and emerging issues such as climate change, have compounded the challenge. Delayed job recovery from the

global economic downturn remains a major challenge for poverty reduction in the years to come, and climate change is likely to have devastating impacts on vulnerable countries and communities.

63. Although the primary focus of the Millennium Development Goals is developing countries, where deprivation is most stark, deficits in human development are to be found in developed countries as well, especially among specific marginalized communities. Vulnerability, discrimination, social exclusion and gender disparities still persist in advanced countries and must not be overlooked.

64. As the country success stories demonstrate, targeted, near-term, “acceleration” interventions — such as subsidizing crucial agricultural inputs, immunization, eliminating user fees for education and health services and addressing human resource constraints in health — are still of paramount importance to speed up progress where current trends make achievement of the Millennium Development Goals unlikely. New technology-based solutions that did not exist when the Goals were endorsed, can and should be leveraged to allow for rapid scaling up. The most important of these technologies involve use of mobile telephones, broadband Internet, and other information and communications technologies.

65. At the same time, interventions need to be framed in the context of national development strategies that define actions to ensure sustainability of the results in the long term. Especially, even if not exclusively, in times of global economic, food and climate volatility, when Millennium Development Goals reversals are a real possibility, creating the enabling environment essential to sustaining progress towards the Goals can be just as important as accelerating achievements. While a short-term perspective, focused on securing immediate gains, can be effective in saving lives and alleviating suffering, it should not be understood as exclusive of, or even incompatible with, longer-term structural changes necessary to sustain progress over time.

66. The very fact that the challenges of poverty, food, energy, global recession and climate change are all interrelated has presented the global community with a unique opportunity to tackle them together. The critical requirement for a “global green new deal” is a commitment by all to frontload large public investments in renewable energy in order to achieve economies of scale and learning, generate employment in both rich and poor countries, and lay the foundation for a new phase of global economic and technological advancement. Besides benefiting the poor, such investment would also lay the basis for sustainable development, stimulate complementary investments in infrastructure and agriculture, and help raise agricultural productivity, thus enhancing food security and creating decent jobs for the rural poor.<sup>33</sup>

67. The main elements of this framework include ensuring that responses to the economic downturn provide support for what has worked in the past, especially protecting the growth momentum in developing countries, sustaining support for integrated poverty eradication programmes, enhancing the reach of targeted interventions, laying the infrastructural foundations for a new era of sustainable

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<sup>33</sup> The *World Economic and Social Survey 2009* contains a detailed proposal for synergistic achievement of developmental and climate goals. See also, World Bank, *World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change*.

economic development, and protecting poor countries and communities from the adverse impacts of global crises.

68. Both acceleration and sustainability of progress must therefore be pursued concomitantly. Accelerated and sustainable progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will be contingent on our combined efforts to do three things much more effectively than we have been able to do in the past:

(a) To scale up implementation of proven and innovative interventions in such key domains as gender, sustainable agriculture (including inputs for smallholders and sustainable environmental management), energy, education and health. This effort needs to be backed by targeted investment, informed community participation, and adequate institutional capacities to effectively mobilize and manage financial resources and deliver public services;

(b) To build the structural and economic foundations to support and sustain progress and mitigate risks of reversal in achieving the Millennium Development Goals through effective social and economic policies and institutions grounded in universal rights and supportive of structural changes and social cohesion, improved conditions for peace, security and good governance, public and private investments that lead to faster pro-poor growth, and effective measures to ensure environmental sustainability;

(c) To broaden and strengthen partnerships to ensure greater global and regional integration, a supportive international framework for trade, technology transfer and climate change mitigation and adaptation in order to sustain long-term human development; and to ensure sufficient, predictable, and well-coordinated financing for development, including national budgets, ODA, philanthropy, debt relief and new financing instruments. This third element builds on the recognition that both within and across countries, no single stakeholder can achieve the first two strategic priorities on their own.

69. Specific Millennium Development Goals will require specific acceleration efforts, as outlined below:

#### **Poverty and hunger (Millennium Development Goal 1)**

70. To achieve Millennium Development Goal 1:

(a) Poor countries with large agricultural sectors should focus on bolstering agricultural productivity and output quality. A sharp increase in agricultural productivity can accomplish several things simultaneously: (i) reduced hunger; (ii) reduced child mortality through improved nutrition; (iii) reduced maternal mortality through improved nutrition; and (iv) higher household incomes and economic growth;

(b) To boost productivity, smallholder farmers must gain immediate access to inputs — such as fertilizer, high-yield seeds, equipment, small-scale irrigation, technical extension and post-harvest storage — in order to modernize and commercialize traditional farming. At the same time, sustainable agricultural practices need to be introduced. Intensive farming, if not properly regulated, can lead to the depletion of water sources, pollution by chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and a loss of biodiversity;

(c) Producing more food directly affects only one aspect of food security<sup>34</sup> (i.e., availability) and must be complemented by other interventions to address inequities of access to food and to bolster nutrition. Food security programmes should therefore also address issues of access to adequate nutritious food (taking into account local food consumption preferences and different nutritional requirements) and implement integrated nutrition programmes for the poor and vulnerable. In the short term, hunger hotspots within countries should be a top priority. Prevention-based interventions such as the distribution of vital micronutrient fortification and supplementation, as well as targeted support of children through the provision of school-based meals, must also be complemented by treatment-based interventions such as the treatment of severe and moderate levels of acute malnutrition and mass de-worming for children;

(d) Access to decent and productive employment and promotion of entrepreneurship is fundamental to pro-poor growth and efforts to address poverty and hunger. Successful programmes, especially employment-intensive initiatives, small and medium-sized enterprise promotion, employment guarantee schemes and conditional cash transfers, as well as vocational and technical training and entrepreneurial skills development, especially for unemployed youth, can yield positive results in reducing poverty and should be more widely applied to cover larger parts of the population, especially women and in rural areas;

(e) Close attention should be paid to the recommendations contained in the Global Jobs Pact, adopted by the Governments and employers' and workers' delegates of the International Labour Organization (ILO) 183 member States. The Pact proposes a range of tested crisis-response and recovery measures that focus on employment and social protection. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but a portfolio of tried and tested policy options that countries can adapt to their specific needs and situation.

### **Education (Millennium Development Goal 2)**

71. To achieve Millennium Development Goal 2:

(a) National education systems need to be strengthened by addressing infrastructure, human resource and governance constraints, backed by international donor support;

(b) When scaling up education budgets, inequalities across income, gender and geographical, linguistic and ethnic lines should be addressed when allocating resources. Interventions should address problems of access to schooling from the supply and demand side. On the supply side, adequate services need to be provided and made accessible based on a robust needs analysis. On the demand side, targeted measures need to be put in place to attract children from poor households, rural areas or minority ethnic groups to school. Successful examples of making primary education more available, accessible and affordable include abolishing school fees, subsidies for other costs (e.g., textbooks, uniforms and transportation) and innovative approaches to school (e.g., community schools, mobile schooling, distance learning and multi-grade teaching). Programmes strengthening linkages between education, health and nutrition, such as school meal programmes and social

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<sup>34</sup> Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life.

protection measures (e.g., cash transfers and social insurance), have also proven successful;

(c) Progression through the school system — retention, completion and learning achievement — is another challenge that needs to be urgently addressed. Appropriate learning environments and quality of education can be ensured through the development of child-friendly schools, effective and comprehensive teacher strategies (e.g., recruitment and retention policies, underpinned by initial and in-service teacher education and development; teacher status and working conditions), enhanced pedagogical support and learner-relevant curricula, educational materials and languages of instruction.

### **Gender equality (Millennium Development Goal 3)**

72. To achieve Millennium Development Goal 3:

(a) Key barriers to girls' education need to be removed, including by providing scholarships, cash transfers and eliminating user fees; support for girls, especially at the secondary level where too many girls are forced to leave school because of school expenses, should be expanded; completion and attendance rates need to be tracked; the quality of education must be improved; and investment in girls' enrolment in secondary school must be scaled up;

(b) The generation of full and productive employment and the creation of decent work and income for those beyond school age must be made the primary goal of macroeconomic, social and development policies, including by promoting equal skills development and employment opportunities, reducing wage gaps between women and men;

(c) Social protection measures and labour laws and policies that are gender-responsive should be introduced; and legal protections for the most vulnerable women workers introduced and enforced. Particular attention should be paid to gender gaps in school-to-work transition for young people, making education and training relevant to labour market demand, based on a life-cycle and rights-based approach;

(d) Positive action to improve the numbers and influence of women in all political decision-making should be introduced, including by investing in women's leadership in local decision-making structures and by creating an even playing field for men and women within political parties. With few exceptions, the 26 countries that have achieved or surpassed the goal of women securing 30 per cent of seats in national assemblies over the past five years have introduced some form of positive action;

(e) National-level capacity to track and report on progress, gaps and opportunities should be improved through better generation and use of sex-disaggregated data and statistics, including on time use;

(f) Women's work burden must be reduced through investment in infrastructure, labour saving technologies and gender-responsive economic stimulus packages;

(g) Accountability for enhancing women's rights and ending gender discrimination should be strengthened — in line with commitments made in the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing

Platform for Action and relevant ILO conventions — including through eliminating inequalities in access to land and property and by investing in implementation of laws, policies and programmes to prevent and address violence against women;

(h) Investments for gender equality must be scaled up, including by institutionalizing “gender-responsive budgeting”, as part of public financial management reforms to ensure that financial commitments advance gender equality.

### **Health (Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6)**

73. To achieve Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6:

(a) Strengthening national health systems with the active participation of civil society organizations can significantly improve both maternal and child health. Strengthening health systems involves addressing human resource constraints, building new infrastructure, upgrading and improving supply systems, and improving governance and stewardship through a larger role in informal, formal and decentralized systems of health protection. Additional international development assistance is vital for scaling up health systems in low-income countries;

(b) Targeted interventions in key areas — such as immunization programmes, increasing the number of trained midwives and the use of insecticide-treated bednets — are known to have strong positive impacts but are more sustainable when embedded in a strategy aimed at providing comprehensive universal primary health care;

(c) Interventions that have the greatest impact on health-related Millennium Development Goal targets, such as universal access to sexual and reproductive health, immunization and key child-survival interventions, HIV prevention, mitigation and treatment, prevention and treatment of neglected tropical diseases, prevention and treatment services for malaria and tuberculosis and low-cost access to safe water and sanitation should be urgently scaled up and made universal to accelerate progress on the health Millennium Development Goals;

(d) There is a need for a scale up of global financing, but it needs to be done in predictable ways. Targeted disease-control programmes have been highly successful;

(e) Specific regions and vulnerable and marginalized groups should be prioritized (with special attention to the poor, rural populations, women and youth) with a view to extending health protection to those in need and the excluded;

(f) The capacity of all stakeholders to address issues of gender equality and delivery of health services should be strengthened and partnerships with civil society organizations, including women’s groups, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, should be promoted.

### **Promoting sustainable development (Millennium Development Goal 7)**

74. One of the difficulties in making progress towards the overall objective of Millennium Development Goal 7 is the lack of a framework or means of integrating different components of environmental sustainability. While Goal 7 contains elements that contribute to environmental sustainability, when added together, they do not provide a full picture. This weakness can be exacerbated at the national level if countries mechanically adopt the global set of targets and indicators without



explicitly linking or tailoring them to national priorities. What is needed is for countries to adopt the principle of environmental sustainability and then adapt that principle to national priorities and policies, the local context and subnational or ecosystem specificities.

### **Ecological sustainability and addressing climate change**

75. Efforts to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals must take account of the rapidly changing development landscape transformed by ecosystem decline, including the challenges posed by climate change. Pro-poor development centred on natural resources can be pursued at a local or community level or on a national scale. Both approaches are necessary for maximum poverty reduction. Comprehensive and coherent development planning frameworks, including national sustainable development strategies, are a useful means of integrating all of the aspects related to environmental sustainability that are relevant to any given country in a balanced manner. This is one of the conclusions drawn from the indicators that are making good progress. Furthermore, successful strategies tend to build on the active involvement of the local and municipal authorities and population and of all relevant stakeholders in the planning, programming and budgeting cycle, as well as the adoption of strong national legislation with mandatory targets and commitments towards the attainment of the objectives. It is important that public-private partnerships ensure genuine contributions by the private sector that would not have occurred without such partnerships.

76. Greater efforts are needed in both developed and developing countries to promote alternative renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies. Policy reforms to substantially reduce perverse subsidies for carbon-intensive development, and to create positive incentives, appropriate taxes and other initiatives (such as a global feed-in tariff arrangement to encourage renewal energy generation and use) that will encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies, are urgently needed. The internationally subsidized generation of renewable energy as the basis for development in developing countries will address the perceived trade-off between addressing climate change at the expense of development and will in addition provide major new opportunities for private investment to emerge from the economic crisis and generate considerable employment.

77. Greatly expanded investment in sustainable ecosystem management is needed to reduce the vulnerability of the poor and to maximize the contribution of natural resources to rural development. Poor people need secure resource rights and other enabling conditions for poverty reduction. Biodiversity protection measures must respect indigenous peoples' traditional rights to marine- and forest-based livelihoods.

78. National action plans and investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy will be key to shifting to low carbon growth, creating "green" employment and reducing poverty.

### **Safe drinking water and sanitation**

79. Considering the lack of progress on sanitation, delivering on sanitation targets will require considerable political will together with significant financial, technical

and human resources. Past experience suggests that the main problems have been over-reliance on supply-driven approaches, neglect of user needs and emphasis on large-scale projects, often due to public sector neglect or relinquishment of responsibility, often due to fiscal constraints. A demand-responsive approach is almost always constrained by poor people not having enough purchasing power to pay for improved sanitation. Retaining public provisioning of such services often conserves scarce governance and regulatory capabilities in developing countries, while achieving more universal access.

80. Integrated national water strategies addressing the four main uses of fresh water — agriculture, households, industry and ecosystem services — must robustly respond to the growing water shortages, which are exacerbated by climate change.

### **Reducing slum populations**

81. Cities in developing countries around the world are home to rising numbers of poor people and do not have the capacity to create jobs to sustainably absorb the population influx and achieve the necessary progress needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals. In the face of rapid urbanization, these challenges will only become more acute unless adequate corrective actions are taken. These measures should include sound urban planning, which is essential for the sustainable growth of urban centres. They should stipulate the roles of the key stakeholders — local authorities, organizations of the urban poor, private sector (formal and informal), central Government, district, state and provincial authorities and line ministries. Ultimately, more balanced growth, including rural development, is the only long-term solution insofar as it addresses the pull and push factors involved in rural-urban migration.

### **Expanding and strengthening international partnerships (Millennium Development Goal 8)**

82. In the countdown to 2015, amidst a global economic crisis, the need to accelerate delivery on Millennium Development Goal 8 commitments has now reached emergency proportions, rather than simply being a matter of urgency.

### **Official development assistance**

83. Although ODA reached its highest level ever in 2008, there remain large gaps in meeting existing and long-standing commitments. The Gleneagles Group of Eight (G-8) ODA target for 2010 is approximately \$154 billion in present values, and additional flows of \$35 billion by 2010 will need to be delivered this year to achieve this target. Africa would need an extra \$20 billion of the increase in ODA in 2010 in order to reach the Gleneagles target level of \$63 billion for the region by 2010. In 2007, ODA to the least developed countries was equivalent to 0.09 per cent of the gross national income of the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with less than half the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries meeting the 0.15 to 0.20 per cent target for aid to the least developed countries.

84. The distribution of development assistance remains highly skewed. Although the share of ODA flows allocated to the poorer countries increased somewhat between 2000 and 2007, with sub-Saharan Africa continuing to be the largest recipient of ODA, having more than doubled receipts in current dollar terms, most

of the increase in ODA since 2000 has been limited to a few post-conflict countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Together, these two countries received about a sixth of country allocations from DAC countries, even though they account for less than 2 per cent of the total population of the developing countries. African aid lags far behind commitments and far behind needs. Detailed analyses by the International Monetary Fund and UNDP have shown that highly worthy Millennium Development Goal-based programmes are unfunded because of non-delivery of promised donor funding.<sup>35</sup>

85. There is an urgent need to improve the quality, predictability and durability of aid, in addition to the quantity. Developing countries and their partners will have to reduce the fragmentation of assistance and ensure that ODA supports national development strategies. Pooling of donor resources into multi-donor funds has proved time and again to be a fruitful approach, with great successes, for example, in the control of several infectious diseases. The 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action set out a number of principles and practices to enhance aid effectiveness which need to be implemented urgently. The \$20 billion over three years pledged for food security by the G-8 at L'Aquila, Italy, and the Group of Twenty (G-20) at Pittsburgh, United States of America, should be provided urgently to initiate implementation of the comprehensive plan of action for smallholder farmers, notably through the launch of a new multi-donor trust fund.

### **Trade and development**

86. The failure to reach agreement in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations represents a major gap in strengthening the global partnership for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by depriving developing countries of the benefits of more timely completion of a truly developmental round of negotiations. As currently envisaged, the Doha Round falls short of the original developmental promise that was intended. This would include effective market access for agricultural, manufactured and service exports, particularly in sectors and modes of supply of interest to the developing countries, including modes 1 (cross-border supply) and 4 (movement of natural persons), and removal of trade distorting agricultural subsidies. In the negotiations there has been some progress in reaching agreement on a range of hitherto intractable issues, but progress on other key issues, including implementation issues and concerns of developing countries, as well as special and differential treatment, is falling short of what had been envisioned. In addition, the process of accession to the World Trade Organization by developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be facilitated, consistent with World Trade Organization agreements and their development status.

87. There are large regional and sectoral variations in market-access conditions between developing countries and least developed countries, as well as among least developed countries. Generally, developing countries that do not fall into the category of least developed countries continue to face higher average tariffs than least developed countries for their exports, including agriculture, textiles and clothing. Since 2000, small-island and African least developed countries have gained substantial preferences in major markets for their exports, while Asian least

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Development Programme and International Monetary Fund, "Scaling up development assistance to Africa: the Gleneagles scenario approach" (2009).

developed countries, which tend to be more competitive, continue to face higher tariffs and receive lower duty-free access, especially on their clothing and textile exports. However, the preferential access of least developed countries, compared with all developing countries, continues to be eroded except in agricultural exports.

88. Aid for trade is also critical in helping least developed countries, which continue to experience difficulties in fully utilizing preferential schemes and in overcoming supply-side constraints. In 2007, total aid for trade commitments increased by 8 per cent from 2006 and by over 20 per cent from the 2002-2005 baseline; but more than half the amount was provided to only 11 countries.

89. Donors need to deliver on commitments to substantially increase technical, financial and political support for aid for trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework initiative. Aid for trade is especially vital to finance export-oriented infrastructure (e.g., roads, ports and power) to support the export competitiveness of low-income countries. Developed countries also need to honour the 2005 pledge to eliminate, by 2013, all export subsidies including on agriculture, which remain a major distortion affecting trade and farm production in developing countries. Even though overall agricultural support in relation to the GDP of developed countries declined further in 2007, it remained high in absolute terms and in relation to ODA.

90. Since late 2007, the multilateral trading system has come under heightened pressure as the food and financial crises have given rise to new waves of protectionism. It is crucial to maintain an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system during the crises by ensuring that protectionist measures are dismantled as soon as possible and that new measures, including new non-tariff barriers, are resisted.

### **Debt sustainability**

91. Substantial progress has been made with regard to debt relief, but full delivery on the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative requires continued efforts from the international community. By September 2009, 35 out of 40 eligible countries had qualified for debt relief under the initiative, 26 of which had qualified for irrevocable debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief (MDR) initiative. The 35 qualifying countries have received, or are expected to receive, debt relief totalling \$57 billion under the HIPC initiative and \$23 billion in additional debt relief under the MDR initiative.

92. Prior to the global financial turmoil, high commodity prices and strong trade growth had improved the export revenues of many developing countries. Consequently, the burden of servicing external debt for the developing countries as a group had fallen from almost 13 per cent of export earnings in 2000 to below 4 per cent in 2007. This has allowed the HIPC countries to increase their social expenditure, but this trend is being reversed as developing country exports and commodity prices have fallen starkly as a consequence of the current crisis. The ratios of external debt to GDP and external debt service to exports for developing countries have risen significantly since the last quarter of 2008. Developing countries also face significant reversals in access to new external financing because of the global credit crunch.

93. The combination of these factors is creating increasing balance-of-payment problems for a large number of countries. Rising risk premiums on borrowing by

developing countries and currency depreciations are also increasing the cost of external public borrowing. This, in turn, is limiting the ability of developing countries to undertake countercyclical measures and to sustain adequate levels of public spending on infrastructure, education, health and social protection. In the light of the global crisis, measures such as additional concessional financing, standstills on debt obligations, debt relief and debt restructuring should be considered to help countries facing severe financial distress as a consequence of the crisis to avoid harsh domestic adjustments jeopardizing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and avoid public indebtedness reaching unsustainable levels.

#### **Access to affordable essential medicines**

94. Many essential medicines are inaccessible to the poor in developing countries for two main reasons. Firstly, there are large gaps in the availability of medicines in both the public and private sectors; secondly, the prices of the medicines that are available are high in relation to their international reference prices. The multinational drug companies, based mostly in developed countries, should be encouraged to practise dual pricing policies, i.e., lower prices for developing countries.

95. Access to affordable essential medicines remains a concern, particularly as the response to outbreaks of contagious diseases and the development of resistant strains of infection create new difficulties. Basic packages of essential medical services require more adaptation to local needs, and better alignment to Millennium Development Goal health targets. The affordability of medicines is expected to deteriorate as a result of the global economic crisis. Incomes for many are falling and currency depreciations are further pushing up the cost of imported medicines. The situation is most difficult for countries with poorly funded or inefficiently run public sector procurement and distribution systems, countries where poorer households have no access to health insurance or public supplies of medicines, and countries where medicines are mostly brand names, rather than generic. Actions are needed to protect low-income families from increases in the cost of medicines brought about by the crisis.

#### **Access to new technologies**

96. Advances in technology provide an opportunity to accelerate poverty reduction through pathways not available to countries that developed earlier. Reducing the technology gap can accelerate leap-frogging to innovative and low-cost development solutions. Such technology facilitates communication and information exchange. Simple access to mobile telephones translates into reductions in mortality rates through provision of information about prevention and treatment and improvement of transport to vital interventions (such as emergency obstetric care), long-distance learning, better chances of survival and adaptation by sharing information on the location of pastures and water using mobile telephony, and empowerment of community health workers and other health personnel.

97. Considerable progress had been made in access to information and communications technologies, especially in cellular telephony, in recent years. Use of the Internet has increased steadily, with almost one fourth of the world's population having Internet access. However, less than 18 per cent of the population

in developing countries was using the Internet (and only 4 per cent in the least developed countries), compared with over 60 per cent in developed countries.<sup>36</sup> Greater efforts are needed, especially through strengthened public-private partnerships, to close the large gaps that remain in access and affordability across countries and income groups.

98. Addressing the challenges of climate change has necessitated further access to new technologies. For both climate change mitigation and adaptation, massive investments are needed in research, development and deployment of technologies.

## **IV. The way forward**

99. The Millennium Development Goals work by engaging national and global society as a whole. The actions of individuals, organizations, private companies and Governments in the cause of international development cooperation should be guided by the key principles set out below:

### **Guiding principles for an action agenda**

1. National ownership and leadership complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies that align with national priorities and respect national sovereignty are essential.
2. The interdependence of human rights, gender equality, governance, development and peace and security must be recognized to attain success and sustainability.
3. The need to look at the Millennium Development Goals through a gender lens is critical, since women and girls typically face the greatest burdens of extreme poverty, hunger and disease. All of the action areas need to include specific strategies for tackling challenges faced by girls and women. On top of this, critical actions are needed to focus on overarching priorities for gender equality, including challenges of women's political representation and the intolerable ongoing epidemic of violence against women.
4. The norms and values embedded in the Millennium Declaration and international human rights instruments must continue to provide the foundation for engagement, in particular the key human rights principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation and accountability.
5. The need to empower the poor through scaled-up efforts focused on citizen monitoring of Millennium Development Goal delivery, capacity-building and improving access to financial and legal services remains crucial.

### **Action-oriented agenda for all stakeholders**

#### **Creating the policy and fiscal space to accelerate and sustain progress**

100. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals will need accelerated interventions in key areas. These interventions should be framed within the broader

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<sup>36</sup> International Telecommunication Union, *World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database*, 2007 and 2008.

development framework of national development strategies for long-term equitable and sustainable growth and structural change. The immediate priority would be to ensure the sustainability of economic recovery, rising rural productivity and decent work generation in a period in which economic growth is likely to be slower than before the current crisis.

101. National Governments, with the full involvement of civil society organizations and supported by the international community must take urgent measures to implement growth and trade strategies enabling accelerated reduction in poverty, inequality and marginalization. This means promoting the fiscal space for delivery of key public services and long-term public investments in infrastructure, agriculture and human skills. It also means re-examination of prevailing macroeconomic frameworks, particularly to restore national capabilities to minimize the adverse effects of capital mobility, which has severely undermined domestic resource mobilization and monetary and exchange rate management. Without sustained employment and income growth, all measured Millennium Development Goal progress will prove to be short lived.

102. Financial sector policies must be supportive of accelerating proven interventions in addition to seeking stability through prudential regulations. These policies should also promote financial inclusion and may include specialized financial institutions and incentives for financial institutions to cater to small and medium-sized enterprises, poor populations, agriculture and non-farm activities. Inclusive finance will involve a continuum of affordable financial services (savings, loans, payments, receipts and insurance) available to poor households to improve their standards of living, and for enterprises to grow. Trade and industry policies should support dynamic sectors and activities in terms of productivity growth and creation of decent jobs characterized by high wages and employment security.

103. Progress must be protected in an era of increased economic insecurity arising from global economic instability, volatile food prices, natural disasters and health epidemics. This requires universal social protection and measures to support the most vulnerable communities. There should be effective measures to address all forms of discrimination and social exclusion including through legislative and enforcement measures, awareness campaigns and social mobilization.

#### **Expanded global partnership to support the Millennium Development Goal agenda**

104. Working in partnership with all stakeholders, the international community must support national development strategies, expand national policy space, accelerate investment in developing countries, minimize the likelihood of crisis and conflict and substantially improve the international response to humanitarian, rehabilitation and recovery needs, and encourage and sustain reforms for a more conducive international environment for development. In the coming months, concrete steps will be taken at all levels to improve coordination and management in support of the Millennium Development Goals. United Nations country teams, central to the United Nations country efforts, will be tasked to support the overall and sector-specific Millennium Development Goal plans of Member States.

105. Millennium Development Goal interventions along the lines outlined above will require expanded fiscal and institutional capacity at all levels in both donor and recipient circles, and rigorous public-private management systems to ensure that the

money gets to the right place, at the right time and for the right uses. For several Millennium Development Goals, despite knowledge of what effective interventions are required, there have been shortfalls in the financing and management needed for effective implementation.

106. Raising resources to finance the Millennium Development Goals should start at home. Therefore, effective and innovative measures to raise domestic revenues in a sustainable manner and to efficiently allocate these resources for development are essential. Most importantly, the international community should intensify international tax cooperation, respecting the sovereign right of countries and enabling them to raise considerably greater domestic fiscal resources. The onus of responsibility falls most heavily on the OECD economies, which should not only support domestic financial resource mobilization in developing countries, but also reform international economic relations to enhance financing for development by ensuring developmental reforms in the areas of international investment, international trade, aid, debt and systemic reform as promised by the Monterrey Consensus and reiterated in the 2008 Doha Declaration.<sup>37</sup>

107. The community of donors must deliver on its existing promises of greatly expanded ODA, while enhancing aid effectiveness and eliminating onerous conditionalities. If these promises are not met, the poor will suffer and, indeed, die in large numbers. Honouring commitments by the rich countries is a bulwark of global solidarity and a sine qua non for success in implementing the Millennium Development Goals in the low-income countries.

108. In the past few months, several Governments have put forth promising proposals to ensure adequate financing for the Millennium Development Goals, including the call for new financing to build better health systems, the G-8 2009 L'Aquila food security initiative and the associated call for financing a multi-donor trust fund, which could support millions of farm families seeking to enhance food productivity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation funds and others. These opportunities must be acted upon quickly to ensure that longstanding international commitments are kept by the time of the 2010 G-8 and G-20 summits in Canada.

109. At the same time, there is a need to look beyond traditional ODA to more innovative financing models that can increase financial flows and their predictability. Several new programmes, schemes and models are promising, and should be urgently considered for scale-up opportunities. Private philanthropy for the Millennium Development Goals has also grown considerably in recent years and proven effective in mobilizing support from individuals and supplementing available financing to achieve the Goals.

110. Developed countries must also live up to their promises by eliminating trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and finally giving genuinely unrestricted market access to developing countries to help them lift themselves out of poverty.

111. The time has come for an accountability mechanism between developed and developing countries (as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus and the Accra Plan of Action), and between Governments and their citizens, to ensure that Millennium Development Goal commitments are honoured. The 2010 high-level plenary

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<sup>37</sup> General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.



meeting should be an occasion for endorsement of an accountability framework that consolidates global commitments, links them to results with timelines, and establishes monitoring and enforcing mechanisms.

### **Harnessing private sector potential for sustainable development**

112. Harnessing private sector potential begins with the farmer in the rural village, who is the backbone of the private sector in his or her country. It extends all the way to the major multinational companies that often operate in more than 100 countries around the world. The private sector often plays the central role in economic development, but can play that role effectively only when the public sector is doing its job as well: in regulation, public investments in key infrastructure such as roads and power, and the provision of public services such as education and health.

113. Many businesses are already taking specific action in support of the Millennium Development Goals — assisting in poverty reduction, food security, environmental stewardship, gender equality, health care and education through their core business operations, social investments and advocacy. Beyond responsible practices, business should think of new and creative ways of working with and investing in pro-poor business models, products and services that can bring about thriving markets.

114. The United Nations Global Compact, in which the world's major companies are committed to global social responsibility, will this year take on the Millennium Development Goals as a central focus of its participating companies. These companies will share technologies, business models, outreach strategies and skilled managers towards the scaling-up of Millennium Development Goal initiatives in many parts of the world. At its high-level meeting, the United Nations will release a framework for strategic business action in support of the Millennium Development Goals. It will also call on companies to align their social investments with development in general and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in particular. Many are already partners in the Millennium Villages and related programmes. Many more companies can and will join the global Millennium Development Goal effort.

115. The Millennium Development Goals have triggered the largest cooperative effort in world history to fight poverty, hunger and disease. They have become a rallying cry in poor and rich countries alike, and a standard for non-governmental organizations and corporations as well. Nearly 10 years after they were adopted, they are alive and stronger than ever, which is a rarity among global goals. The world wants them to work.

116. The shortfalls in progress towards the Millennium Development Goals are not because they are unreachable or because the time is too short, but rather because of unmet commitments, inadequate resources, lack of focus and accountability, and insufficient interest in sustainable development. This has resulted in failure to deliver on the necessary finance, services, technical support and partnerships. As a consequence of these shortfalls, aggravated by the global food and economic crises as well as the failure of various development policies and programmes, improvements in the lives of the poor have been unacceptably slow to achieve, while some hard won gains are being eroded.

117. The Millennium Development Goals represent a pact, not just among Governments, but also among all development stakeholders. Each actor must focus on the best use of its assets, acting efficiently, effectively and collectively to fulfil a specific role, as follows:

(a) Developing countries: establish policies and institutions to achieve the Goals, involving administrations, communities and citizens towards this end. Through South-South cooperation, they also need to pledge to help other developing countries through the transfer of knowledge, technology and resources;

(b) Civil society actors, including those ensuring Government accountability and those delivering services: commit to the Millennium Development Goal agenda;

(c) Private businesses: disseminate technologies, create decent employment and otherwise work to support the goals;

(d) Private philanthropy: provide a catalytic role in fostering new innovations for later adoption by the public sector and through public-private partnerships;

(e) Developed countries: fulfil existing commitments to increase the quantity and improve the effectiveness of development assistance and improve market access for developing countries' exports;

(f) The multilateral system, including the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes: improve its coherence and effectiveness in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

118. Ten years have passed since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the historical commitment to cut extreme poverty by half through the implementation of eight measurable and time-bound goals: the Millennium Development Goals. This vision and those measures remain relevant today. Our world possesses the knowledge and the resources to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and embrace a sustainable development process for a brighter, more secure and more prosperous future for all. Coming together in September with a renewed commitment to build on our achievements so far and to bridge the gaps identified, we can deliver on our shared responsibility to build a better world for generations to come.

119. The United Nations has affirmed the right to development in addition to the other economic, social and cultural rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The rights approach affirms human rights to social protection and rejection of social exclusion, thus contributing to overall security and well-being. Fulfilling the rights of each and every citizen requires adequate resources. The Millennium Development Goal framework has identified stakeholders and duty-bearers with well-defined responsibilities, establishing accountability for development outcomes.

120. In recent decades, Government resources for development have often become increasingly constrained, while the private sector has taken over many areas of service and utility provision. New and innovative instruments are being promoted to finance development needs, including through multi-donor trust funds such as the L'Aquila food security initiative. However, the promise of delivering adequate aid remains unfulfilled, while the urgency to ensure that the international financial and trading systems support development has heightened in the wake of the current

global crisis; hence, ensuring the adequacy of resources is the major challenge in achieving development, including the Millennium Development Goals.

121. We must not fail the billions who look to the international community to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world. Let us meet in September to keep the promise.

## Annex

### **Suggested themes for the round tables**

#### **Poverty, hunger and gender equality**

1. How can we better support and facilitate employment-intensive, sustained and equitable growth and structural change?
2. How can we support holistic community-led approaches to achieve the synergies of the Millennium Development Goals?
3. How can international commitments support national efforts to raise agricultural output in order to overcome hunger and ensure food security?
4. How can we ensure that new and existing commitments, by all stakeholders, are adequately monitored and met?
5. What institutional reforms and commitments are required to overcome gender inequality and the main obstacles to women's empowerment?
6. How can Governments be supported to expand social protection systems where they indicate this is a priority?

#### **Health and education**

1. How do we enhance access to public health care?
2. What cost-effective key interventions in health are needed, especially to improve maternal health? How can national policies and international partnerships overcome the current institutional and resource constraints?
3. What are the best strategies to overcome institutional and resource deficiencies in achieving education for all?
4. How can we ensure that new and existing commitments, by all stakeholders, are adequately monitored and met?

#### **Promoting sustainable development**

1. What are the most cost-effective national policies to increase the availability of safe drinking water on a sustainable basis and to improve sanitation?
2. What international partnerships and resources are needed to support national efforts?
3. What are the most cost-effective ways of improving the welfare of slum-dwellers and of ensuring their access to basic services on a sustainable basis?
4. What institutions and reforms will protect biodiversity and forest cover?
5. How can we ensure that new and existing commitments, by all stakeholders, are adequately monitored and met?

#### **Widening and strengthening partnerships**

1. How do we ensure that aid commitments are met and what else can be done to improve aid predictability?

2. How do we ensure debt sustainability through enhanced international cooperation? What are the best ways to facilitate debt relief and debt workouts?
3. How do we ensure that the Doha Round of World Trade Organization trade negotiations realizes its development promise?
4. How do we ensure easier and cheaper access to medicines and new agricultural and renewable energy technology?
5. How can stakeholders work more effectively together to prevent conflict and armed violence and to strengthen the rule of law, justice and security?
6. How can we ensure that new and existing commitments, by all stakeholders, are adequately monitored and met?

#### **Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable**

1. What more should be done to address the special needs of the poorest countries?
2. What should be done to better identify and address the special needs of the most vulnerable countries, communities and people?
3. What can be done to break the cycle of poverty, political and economic exclusion and civil violence?
4. What is the developmental potential of humanitarian, disaster relief and peacebuilding efforts?
5. How can we ensure that new and existing commitments, by all stakeholders, are adequately monitored and met?

#### **Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches**

1. What are the most effective measures to enhance food security?
2. How should climate change mitigation and adaptation be incorporated into broader efforts to enhance sustainable development?
3. How can financing be ensured for global public goods, including meeting existing commitments on financing for development and new challenges such as climate change?
4. How should the international community address new emerging issues that are intimately linked with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, such as security, armed violence, migration and others?
5. How should the international financial system be reformed to better support sustainable and equitable development?
6. How should the international community reform international economic governance to better support sustainable and equitable development?
7. How can we ensure that new and existing commitments, by all stakeholders, are adequately monitored and met?



# General Assembly

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**Sixty-fifth session**  
Agenda items 13 and 115

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 September 2010

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.1)]

### **65/1. Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the following outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session:

#### **Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

1. We, Heads of State and Government, gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, welcome the progress made since we last met here in 2005, while expressing deep concern that it falls far short of what is needed. We reaffirm our resolve to work together for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, recalling the development goals and commitments emanating from the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.<sup>2</sup>
2. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with full respect for international law and its principles.
3. We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.
4. We underscore the continued relevance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the commitments contained therein, including the Millennium Development Goals, which have raised awareness and continue to generate real and important development gains. Together these outcomes and commitments have played a vital

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 55/2.

<sup>2</sup> See resolution 60/1.



role in shaping a broad development vision and constitute the overarching framework for the development activities of the United Nations. We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full implementation of these outcomes and commitments.

5. We recognize that progress, including in poverty eradication, is being made despite setbacks, including setbacks caused by the financial and economic crisis. In this context, we recognize the deeply inspiring examples of progress made by countries in all regions of the world through cooperation, partnerships, actions and solidarity. We are deeply concerned, however, that the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger surpasses one billion and that inequalities between and within countries remain a significant challenge. We are also deeply concerned about the alarming global levels of maternal and child mortality. We believe that eradication of poverty and hunger, as well as combating inequality at all levels, is essential to create a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.

6. We reiterate our deep concern at the multiple and interrelated crises, including the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries. But this will not deter us in our efforts to make the Millennium Development Goals a reality for all.

7. We are determined to collectively advance and strengthen the global partnership for development, as the centrepiece of our cooperation, in the years ahead. The global partnership has been reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup> the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>3</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),<sup>4</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>2</sup> and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.<sup>5</sup>

8. We are committed to making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, including through actions, policies and strategies defined in the present outcome document in support of developing countries, in particular those countries that are lagging most behind and those Goals that are most off track, thus improving the lives of the poorest people.

9. We are convinced that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved, including in the poorest countries, with renewed commitment, effective implementation and intensified collective action by all Member States and other relevant stakeholders at both the domestic and international levels, using national development strategies and appropriate policies and approaches that have proved to be effective, with strengthened institutions at all levels, increased mobilization of resources for development, increased effectiveness of development cooperation and an enhanced global partnership for development.

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<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

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

11. We acknowledge 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 and hunger.

12. We recognize that gender equality, the empowerment of women, women's full enjoyment of all human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential to economic and social development, including the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. We reaffirm the need for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>6</sup> Achieving gender equality and empowerment of women is both a key development goal and an important means for achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals. We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and pledge our full support for its operationalization.

13. We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

14. We are convinced that the United Nations, on the basis of its universal membership, legitimacy and unique mandate, plays a vital role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and in supporting the acceleration of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We reaffirm the need for a strong United Nations to meet the challenges of the changing global environment.

15. We recognize that all the Millennium Development Goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. We therefore underline the need to pursue these Goals through a holistic and comprehensive approach.

16. We acknowledge the diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We emphasize the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

17. We call on civil society, including non-governmental organizations, voluntary associations and foundations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels, to enhance their role in national development efforts as well as their contribution to the achievement of the

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<sup>6</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.



Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and we commit ourselves as national Governments to the inclusion of these stakeholders.

18. We acknowledge the role of national parliaments in furthering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

**A mixed story: successes, uneven progress, challenges and opportunities**

19. We recognize that developing countries have made significant efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and have had major successes in realizing some of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Successes have been made in combating extreme poverty, improving school enrolment and child health, reducing child deaths, expanding access to clean water, improving prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, expanding access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, and controlling malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases.

20. We acknowledge that much more needs to be done in achieving the Millennium Development Goals as progress has been uneven among regions and between and within countries. Hunger and malnutrition rose again from 2007 through 2009, partially reversing prior gains. There has been slow progress in reaching full and productive employment and decent work for all, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, achieving environmental sustainability and providing basic sanitation, and new HIV infections still outpace the number of people starting treatment. In particular, we express grave concern over the slow progress being made in reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal and reproductive health. Progress on other Millennium Development Goals is fragile and must be sustained to avoid reversal.

21. We underline the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of Goal 8 in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We recognize that without substantial international support, several of the Goals are likely to be missed in many developing countries by 2015.

22. We are deeply concerned about the impact of the financial and economic crisis, the worst since the Great Depression. It has reversed development gains in many developing countries and threatens to seriously undermine the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

23. We take note of the lessons learned and the successful policies and approaches in the implementation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recognize that with increased political commitment these could be replicated and scaled up for accelerating progress, including by:

(a) Strengthening national ownership and leadership of development strategies;

(b) Adopting forward-looking, macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development;

(c) Promoting national food security strategies that strengthen support for smallholder farmers and contribute to poverty eradication;

(d) Adopting policies and measures oriented towards benefiting the poor and addressing social and economic inequalities;

- (e) Supporting participatory, community-led strategies aligned with national development priorities and strategies;
- (f) Promoting universal access to public and social services and providing social protection floors;
- (g) Improving capacity to deliver quality services equitably;
- (h) Implementing social policies and programmes, including appropriate conditional cash-transfer programmes, and investing in basic services for health, education, water and sanitation;
- (i) Ensuring the full participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in decision-making processes;
- (j) Respecting, promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;
- (k) Increasing efforts to reduce inequality and eliminate social exclusion and discrimination;
- (l) Enhancing opportunities for women and girls and advancing the economic, legal and political empowerment of women;
- (m) Investing in the health of women and children to drastically reduce the number of women and children who die from preventable causes;
- (n) Working towards transparent and accountable systems of governance at the national and international levels;
- (o) Working towards greater transparency and accountability in international development cooperation, in both donor and developing countries, focusing on adequate and predictable financial resources as well as their improved quality and targeting;
- (p) Promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, which complement North-South cooperation;
- (q) Promoting effective public-private partnerships;
- (r) Expanding access to financial services for the poor, especially poor women, including through adequately funded microfinance plans, programmes and initiatives supported by development partners;
- (s) Strengthening statistical capacity to produce reliable disaggregated data for better programmes and policy evaluation and formulation.

24. We recognize that the scaling-up of the successful policies and approaches outlined above will need to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership for development, as set out in the action agenda below.

25. We take note of the first formal debate organized by the President of the General Assembly in which different views on the notion of human security were presented by Member States, as well as the ongoing efforts to define the notion of human security, and recognize the need to continue the discussion and to achieve an agreement on the definition of human security in the General Assembly.

26. We recognize that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, especially developing countries. We commit ourselves to addressing

climate change in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>7</sup> including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We maintain the Framework Convention as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Addressing climate change will be of key importance in safeguarding and advancing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

27. We recognize that attention must be focused on the particular needs of developing countries and on the large and increasing economic and social inequalities. Disparities between developed and developing countries and inequalities between the rich and the poor, and between rural and urban populations, inter alia, remain persistent and significant and need to be addressed.

28. We recognize that policies and actions must focus on the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, so that they may benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this respect, there is a particular need to provide more equitable access to economic opportunities and social services.

29. We recognize the urgency of paying attention to the many developing countries with specific needs, and the unique challenges they confront in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

30. We acknowledge that the least developed countries face significant constraints and structural impediments in their development efforts. We express grave concern that the least developed countries are lagging behind in meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, we call for continued implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010<sup>8</sup> and look forward to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011, which would further invigorate the international partnership to address the special needs of these countries.

31. We reiterate our recognition of the special needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries, caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and also the concern that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks. We stress the need to overcome these vulnerabilities and build resilience. We call for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>9</sup> as reaffirmed in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action.<sup>10</sup>

32. We recognize the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>8</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

<sup>10</sup> See resolution 63/2.

to address those vulnerabilities through the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.<sup>11</sup> We also recognize that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States. We note the uneven progress of small island developing States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and express concern that progress in some areas has been lagging. In this regard, we welcome the five-year high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy to be conducted on 24 and 25 September 2010 to assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

33. We recognize that more attention should be given to Africa, especially those countries most off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Progress has been made in some African countries, but the situation in others remains a grave concern, not least because the continent is among the hardest hit by the financial and economic crisis. We note that aid to Africa has increased in recent years; however, it still lags behind the commitments that have been made. We therefore strongly call for the delivery of those commitments.

34. We recognize also the specific development challenges of middle-income countries. These countries face unique challenges in their efforts to achieve their national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We also reiterate that their efforts in that regard should be based on national development plans that integrate the Millennium Development Goals and should be adequately supported by the international community, through various forms, taking into account the needs and the capacity to mobilize domestic resources of these countries.

35. We acknowledge that disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience to all types of natural hazards, including geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, in developing countries, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>12</sup> can have multiplier effects and accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Reducing vulnerabilities to these hazards is therefore a high priority for developing countries. We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with natural disasters, some of increased intensity, including as a result of the effects of climate change, impeding progress towards sustainable development.

#### **The way forward: an action agenda for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015**

36. We resolve to promote and strengthen national ownership and leadership of development as a key determinant of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with each country taking the primary responsibility for its own development. We encourage all countries to continue to design, implement and monitor development strategies tailored to their specific situations, including through broad consultations and participation of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate for each national context. We call on the United Nations system and

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<sup>11</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>12</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

other development actors to support the design and implementation of these strategies, at the request of Member States.

37. We recognize that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space.

38. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus<sup>3</sup> and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development<sup>5</sup> in their entirety, and their integrity and holistic approach, and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of all those resources are central to the global partnership for development, including in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

39. We call for the expeditious delivery of commitments already made by developed countries in the context of the Monterrey Consensus<sup>3</sup> and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.<sup>5</sup> Short-term liquidity, long-term development financing and grants, in accordance with these commitments, will be utilized to assist developing countries to adequately respond to their development priorities. In our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic resources, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity. Private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, along with international financial stability, are vital complements to national and international development efforts.

40. We stress the need for further reform and modernization of the international financial institutions to better enable them to respond to and prevent financial and economic emergencies, effectively promote development and better serve the needs of Member States. We reaffirm the importance of enhancing the voice and representation of developing countries in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and note the reforms undertaken by the World Bank and the progress made by the International Monetary Fund in that direction.

41. We call for increased efforts at all levels to enhance policy coherence for development. We affirm that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals requires mutually supportive and integrated policies across a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues for sustainable development. We call on all countries to formulate and implement policies consistent with the objectives of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

42. We reiterate the important role of trade as an engine of growth and development and its contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. We emphasize the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade distorting measures already taken that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize their flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations. The early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round with a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-

oriented outcome would provide much needed impetus to international trade and contribute to economic growth and development.

43. We stress that promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as well as for promoting sustainable development, but it is not sufficient: growth should enable everyone, in particular the poor, to participate in and benefit from economic opportunities and should lead to job creation and income opportunities and be complemented by effective social policies.

44. We commit ourselves to redoubling our efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and improve the health of women and children, including through strengthened national health systems, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, improved nutrition, and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, making use of enhanced global partnerships. We stress that accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals related to health is essential for making headway also with the other Goals.

45. We reiterate our commitment to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education.

46. We emphasize the importance of addressing energy issues, including access to affordable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability of energy sources and use, as part of global efforts for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the promotion of sustainable development.

47. We recognize the importance of developing economic and social infrastructure and productive capacities for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, bearing in mind the need to enhance employment and income opportunities for all, with a special focus on the poor.

48. We stress the need to create full and productive employment and decent work for all and further resolve to promote the Global Jobs Pact as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job intensive recovery and sustainable development. We call on Member States to take effective measures for promoting social inclusion and integration and incorporate these into their national development strategies.

49. We resolve to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of the regions and countries struggling to achieve economic and social development, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, Africa, and people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism. In addition, we acknowledge the need to take concerted actions, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of peoples living under foreign occupation to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

50. We recognize the specific development challenges related to peacebuilding and early recovery in countries affected by conflict and the effect of these challenges on their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We request donor countries to provide adequate, timely and predictable development assistance in support of these efforts, tailored to country-specific needs and situations, at the request of the recipient country. We are determined to strengthen international

partnerships to address these needs, demonstrate progress and enable improved international support.

51. We consider that promoting universal access to social services and providing social protection floors can make an important contribution to consolidating and achieving further development gains. Social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for protecting the gains towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

52. We stress that fighting corruption at both the national and international levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and sustainable development. We are determined to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all of its manifestations, which requires strong institutions at all levels, and urge all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>13</sup> and to begin its implementation.

53. We recognize that the respect for and promotion and protection of human rights is an integral part of effective work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

54. We acknowledge the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Women are agents of development. We call for action to ensure the equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, health care, economic opportunities and decision-making at all levels. We stress that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth. We recognize the need for gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of development policies.

55. We reaffirm that States should, in accordance with international law, take concerted, positive steps to ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, on the basis of equality and non-discrimination and recognizing the value and diversity of their distinctive identities, cultures and social organization.

56. We resolve to work with all stakeholders and strengthen partnerships in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The private sector plays a vital role in development in many countries, including through public-private partnerships and by generating employment and investment, developing new technologies and enabling sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. We call upon the private sector to further contribute to poverty eradication, including by adapting its business models to the needs and possibilities of the poor. Foreign direct investment and trade, as well as public-private partnerships, are important for the scaling-up of initiatives. In this connection we note the work of the United Nations Global Compact, in which companies have committed to corporate social responsibility and action in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

57. We stress the importance of strengthening regional and subregional cooperation for accelerating national development strategy implementation, including through regional and subregional development banks and initiatives. We also emphasize the importance of strengthening regional and subregional

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<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

institutions to provide effective support to regional and national development strategies.

58. We reaffirm that the United Nations funds, programmes and regional commissions, and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, have an important role to play in advancing development and in protecting development gains, in accordance with national strategies and priorities, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We will continue to take steps for a strong, well-coordinated, coherent and effective United Nations system in support of the Millennium Development Goals. We emphasize the principle of national ownership and leadership, support the initiative of some countries to use, on a voluntary basis, common country programme documents, and emphasize our support for all countries that wish to continue using the existing frameworks and processes for country-level programming.

59. We stress the need for adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational activities of the United Nations development system as well as the need to make funding more predictable, effective and efficient. We also reaffirm, in this context, the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting on the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies.

60. We resolve to enhance efforts to mobilize adequate and predictable financial and high-quality technical support, as well as to promote the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable technology and the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms, which is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

61. We consider that innovative financing mechanisms can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis. Such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing. While recognizing the considerable progress in innovative sources of financing for development, we call for scaling-up of present initiatives, where appropriate.

62. We welcome the ongoing efforts to strengthen and support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. We stress that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. We call for the effective implementation of the outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009.<sup>14</sup>

63. We recognize the regional efforts being made to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In this regard, we welcome the convening of the fifteenth ordinary session of the Summit of the African Union in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, with the theme “Maternal, infant and child health and development in Africa”, the launch of the African Union Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa; the slogan “Africa cares: no woman should die while giving life”; the Special Ministerial Meeting to Review the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: run-up to 2015, held in Jakarta on 3 and 4 August 2010; the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on progress in Latin America and the Caribbean towards

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution 64/222, annex.



achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and similar reports produced by other regional commissions, all of which have contributed positively to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, as well as to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

64. We welcome the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, and recognize that the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, along with recent initiatives such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action,<sup>15</sup> make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results. We also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered.

65. We encourage continued efforts in the Development Cooperation Forum, as the focal point within the United Nations system, to carry out a holistic consideration of issues related to international development cooperation, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

66. We consider that the cultural dimension is important for development. We encourage international cooperation in the cultural field, aimed at achieving development objectives.

67. We recognize that sport, as a tool for education, development and peace, can promote cooperation, solidarity, tolerance, understanding, social inclusion and health at the local, national and international levels.

68. We recognize that all countries require adequate, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including demographic data, in order to design better programmes and policies for sustainable development. We commit ourselves to strengthening our national statistical systems, including for effectively monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. We also reiterate the need to increase efforts in support of statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

69. We take note of the Global Pulse initiative to develop more up-to-date and actionable data as a joint effort among all relevant stakeholders for rapid impact and vulnerability analysis.

#### **Millennium Development Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

70. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1, including by:

(a) Addressing the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, while noting that the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger has a direct impact on the achievement of all the other Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Adopting forward-looking economic policies that lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and which increase employment opportunities, promote agricultural development and reduce poverty;

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<sup>15</sup> A/63/539, annex.

(c) Increasing efforts at all levels to mitigate the social and economic impacts, particularly on poverty and hunger, of the multiple crises through global responses that are comprehensive, effective, inclusive and sustainable, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

(d) Pursuing job-intensive, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women, indigenous people, young people, people with disabilities and rural populations, and promoting small- and medium-sized enterprises through initiatives such as skills enhancement and technical training programmes, vocational training and entrepreneurial skills development. Employers and workers' representatives should be closely associated with these initiatives;

(e) Improving 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;

(f) Taking appropriate steps to assist one another in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, strengthening child protection systems and combating trafficking in children through, inter alia, enhanced international cooperation and assistance, including support for social and economic development, poverty eradication programmes and universal education;

(g) Promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, by establishing a minimum level of social security and health care for all;

(h) Promoting inclusive financial services, particularly microfinance, and including affordable and accessible credit, savings, insurance and payments products for all segments of society, especially women, people in vulnerable situations and those who would not normally be served, or are underserved, by traditional financial institutions, as well as for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(i) Promoting the empowerment and participation of rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and ensuring their equal access to productive resources, land, financing, technologies, training and markets;

(j) Reaffirming the international commitment to eliminating hunger and to securing access to food for all and reiterating, in this regard, the important role of relevant organizations, particularly the United Nations system;

(k) Supporting the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;<sup>16</sup>

(l) Strengthening international coordination and governance for food security, through the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, of which the Committee on World Food Security is a central component,

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<sup>16</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

and reiterating that it is essential to enhance global governance, building on existing institutions and fostering effective partnerships;

(*m*) Promoting efforts to improve capacity-building in sustainable fisheries management, especially in developing countries, as fish is an important source of animal protein for millions of people and is an essential component in the fight against malnutrition and hunger;

(*n*) Supporting a comprehensive and coordinated response to address the multiple and complex causes of the global food crisis, including the adoption of political, economic, social, financial and technical solutions in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community, including for mitigating the impact of the high volatility of food prices on developing countries. The relevant United Nations organizations have an important role to play in this regard;

(*o*) Promoting at all levels a strong enabling environment for enhancing agricultural production, productivity and sustainability in developing countries, including through public and private investment, land-use planning, efficient water management, adequate rural infrastructure, including irrigation, and developing strong agricultural value chains and improving access of farmers to markets and land and supportive economic policies and institutions at the national and international levels;

(*p*) Supporting small-scale producers, including women, to increase production of a wide spectrum of traditional and other crops and livestock, and improving their access to markets, credits and inputs, thereby increasing income-earning opportunities for poor people and their ability to purchase food and improve their livelihoods;

(*q*) Increasing the rate of agricultural productivity growth in developing countries through promotion of the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable agricultural technology, as well as the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms, and supporting agricultural research and innovation, extension services and agricultural education in developing countries;

(*r*) Increasing the sustainable production and augmenting the availability and quality of food, including through long-term investment, access of smallholder farmers to markets, credit and inputs, improved land-use planning, crop diversification, commercialization, and development of an adequate rural infrastructure and enhanced market access for developing countries;

(*s*) Delivering on the commitments made to achieve global food security, and providing adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the commitments set out in the Aquila Food Security Initiative;

(*t*) Addressing environmental challenges to sustainable agricultural development such as water quality and availability, deforestation and desertification, land and soil degradation, dust, floods, drought and unpredictable weather patterns and loss of biodiversity, and promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable agricultural technologies and the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(*u*) Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

(v) Making special efforts to meet the nutritional needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as those living in vulnerable situations, through targeted and effective programming;

(w) Accelerating progress on the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security, and in this regard taking special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples.

### **Millennium Development Goal 2 – Achieve universal primary education**

71. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in achieving Millennium Development Goal 2, including by:

(a) Realizing the right of everyone to education and re-emphasizing that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity and shall strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Making further progress towards the goal of universal primary education by building on the gains made during the past decade;

(c) Removing barriers, outside and within education systems, so as to provide equitable educational and learning opportunities for all children, since knowledge and education are key factors for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and for the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, through continued political emphasis on education and by promoting, with the support of the international community, civil society and the private sector, appropriate and targeted, evidence-based measures such as abolishing school fees, providing school meals, ensuring that schools have separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls and in other ways making primary education for all children available, accessible and affordable;

(d) Addressing the root causes of the inequalities, disparities and diverse forms of exclusion and discrimination affecting children, particularly out-of-school children, including by enhancing enrolment, retention, participation and achievement of children, by developing and operationalizing an inclusive education and defining targeted, proactive strategies, policies and programmes, including cross-sectoral approaches, to promote accessibility and inclusion. In this regard, additional efforts should be undertaken to work across sectors to reduce drop-out, repetition and failure rates, especially for the poor, and to eliminate the gender gap in education;

(e) Ensuring quality education and progression through the school system. This requires establishing learner-friendly schools and institutions; increasing the number of teachers and enhancing their quality through comprehensive policies that address issues of recruitment, training, retention, professional development, evaluation, employment and teaching conditions as well as the status of teachers through increased national capacity; and building more classrooms and improving the material conditions of school buildings and infrastructure as well as the quality and content of the curriculum, pedagogy and learning and teaching materials, harnessing the capabilities of information and communications technology and the assessment of learning outcomes;

(f) Strengthening the sustainability and predictability of funding for national education systems by ensuring adequate national education budgets to, inter alia, address infrastructural, human resources, financial and administrative constraints.

These systems should be supported by adequate and predictable development assistance and international cooperation for education, including through new, voluntary and innovative approaches for education financing that should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of finance;

(g) Continuing to implement national programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as part of the commitments made in the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted in 2000 at the World Education Forum,<sup>17</sup> and in the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we recognize the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy;

(h) Supporting the efforts of national Governments to strengthen their capacity to plan and manage education programmes by involving all education providers in line with national policies and educational systems;

(i) Giving greater focus to the transition from primary education and access to secondary education, vocational training and non-formal education and entry into the labour market;

(j) Strengthening efforts to ensure primary education as a fundamental element of the response to and preparedness for humanitarian emergencies, ensuring that affected countries are supported, at their request, in their efforts to restore their education systems by the international community.

### **Millennium Development Goal 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women**

72. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress to achieve Millennium Development Goal 3, including by:

(a) Taking action to achieve the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>6</sup> and its twelve critical areas of concern, our commitments in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>18</sup> and the obligations and commitments of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>19</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;<sup>20</sup>

(b) Ensuring access to education and successful schooling of girls by removing barriers and expanding support for girls' education through measures such as providing free primary education, a safe environment for schooling and financial assistance such as scholarships and cash transfer programmes; promoting supportive policies to end discrimination against women and girls in education; and tracking completion and attendance rates with a view to retaining girls in schools through secondary levels;

(c) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and vocational training, including

<sup>17</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

<sup>18</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

technical, managerial and entrepreneurial training, and to affordable and adequate public and social services;

(d) Ensuring that women benefit from policy measures to generate full and productive employment and decent work for all, in accordance with commitments by States to International Labour Organization conventions, including policy measures to promote, inter alia, access of women and girls, including mothers and pregnant women, to formal and non-formal education, equal skills development and employment opportunities, and closing wage gaps between women and men, recognizing women's unpaid work, including care work;

(e) Investing in infrastructure and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and women to engage in self-employment or participate in the labour market;

(f) Taking action to improve the numbers and active participation of women in all political and economic decision-making processes, including by investing in women's leadership in local decision-making structures and processes, encouraging appropriate legislative action and creating an even playing field for men and women in political and Government institutions, and intensifying our efforts for the equal participation of women and men as key stakeholders at all levels in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding processes;

(g) Strengthening comprehensive national laws and policies as well as programmes to enhance accountability and raise awareness, prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls everywhere, which undermine their full enjoyment of all human rights, and to ensure that women have access to justice and protection, and that all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, in conformity with national legislation, international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

(h) Improving national-level capacity to monitor and report on progress, gaps and opportunities through better generation and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, including with the support of the international community;

(i) Enhancing the impact of development assistance in advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls through targeted activities including capacity-building, as well as through gender mainstreaming and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, involving, as appropriate, civil society and the private sector, with a view to ensuring adequate funding;

(j) Facilitating access by women to affordable microfinance, in particular microcredit, which can contribute to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(k) Promoting and protecting women's equal access to adequate housing, property and land, including rights to inheritance, and enabling them to secure access to credit through appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative measures;

(l) Promoting women's economic empowerment and ensuring women's access to productive resources. In this regard, strengthening gender responsive public management, in order to ensure gender equality in resource allocation, capacity development and benefit sharing in all sectors, including in central and local level governments.

**Promoting global public health for all to achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

73. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in promoting global public health for all, including by:

(a) Realizing the values and principles of primary health care, including equity, solidarity, social justice, universal access to services, multisectoral action, transparency, accountability, community participation and empowerment, as the basis for strengthening health systems, and recall, in this regard, the Declaration of Alma-Ata;<sup>21</sup>

(b) Strengthening the capacity of national health systems to deliver equitable and quality health-care services and promoting the widest possible access to health-care services at the point of use, especially to those in vulnerable situations, through public policies that remove barriers to access to and use of health-care services, complemented by the support of international programmes, measures and policies that align with national priorities;

(c) Providing and strengthening comprehensive and affordable community-based primary health-care services so as to ensure a continuum from health promotion and disease prevention to care and rehabilitation, while paying particular attention to poor people and populations, especially in rural and remote areas, with a view to extending health protection to all those in need;

(d) Improving the quality and effectiveness of health-care services delivery by providing integrated health-care services through coordinated approaches at the country level, the increased use of common platforms and the integration of relevant services of other sectors, including water and sanitation;

(e) Realizing the international commitment to supporting national efforts in strengthening health systems that deliver equitable health outcomes as a basis for a comprehensive approach that includes health financing, the training and retention of the health workforce, procurement and distribution of medicines and vaccines, infrastructure, information systems and service delivery;

(f) Strengthening basic infrastructure, human and technical resources and the provision of health facilities so as to improve health systems and ensure the accessibility, affordability and quality, especially in rural and remote areas, of health-care services, as well as sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, bearing in mind the commitment to halving, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a means of fighting waterborne diseases;

(g) Stressing the importance of multisectoral and inter-ministerial approaches in formulating and implementing national policies that are crucial for promoting and protecting health, and reiterating that Governments will play the central role, in collaboration with civil society organizations, including academia and the private sector, in implementing national strategies and action plans on social service delivery and in making progress towards ensuring more equitable health outcomes;

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<sup>21</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, 6–12 September 1978* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 1978).

(h) Improving national health governance, including through the participation of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, as well as strengthening international support, as appropriate, in order to ensure that national health systems are sustainable, well prepared and capable of responding to challenges, including crises and pandemics;

(i) Developing appropriate policies and actions to promote health education and literacy, including among young people, in order to address the lack of awareness about health and, in some cases, harmful practices which significantly inhibit women's and children's access to health-care services, and to ensure respect for human rights, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as essential means of addressing the health of women and girls, and to address the stigmatization of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

(j) Supporting the use of national data collection, monitoring and evaluation systems that can track sex-disaggregated access to health-care services and provide rapid feedback for improving the effectiveness and quality of health systems;

(k) Strengthening the effectiveness of health systems and proven interventions to address evolving health challenges such as the increased incidence of non-communicable diseases, road traffic injuries and fatalities, and environmental and occupational health hazards;

(l) Reviewing national recruitment, training and retention policies and developing national health workforce plans, based on lessons learned, that address the lack of health workers as well as their uneven distribution within countries, including in remote and rural areas, and throughout the world, which undermines the health systems of developing countries, in particular the shortage in Africa, and in this regard recognizing the importance of national and international actions to promote universal access to health-care services that take into account the challenges facing developing countries in the retention of skilled health personnel, in light of the adoption of the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel,<sup>22</sup> adherence to which is voluntary;

(m) Further strengthening international cooperation, inter alia, through exchange of best practices in strengthening health systems, improving access to medicines, encouraging the development of technology and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, the production of affordable, safe, effective and good quality medicines, fostering the production of innovative medicines, generics, vaccines and other health commodities, the training and retaining of health personnel and work to ensure that international cooperation and assistance, in particular external funding, become more predictable, better harmonized and better aligned with national priorities for capacity-building and channelled to recipient countries in ways that strengthen national health systems;

(n) Further promoting research and development, knowledge-sharing and the provision and use of information and communications technology for health, including by facilitating affordable access by all countries, especially developing countries;

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<sup>22</sup> See World Health Organization, *Sixty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17–21 May 2010, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA63/2010/REC/1)*.



(o) Enhancing public-private partnerships for health-care service delivery, encouraging the development of new and affordable technologies and their innovative application and developing new and affordable vaccines and medicines needed, in particular, in developing countries;

(p) Welcoming the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies, in order to significantly reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition;

(q) Welcoming also the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths.

#### **Millennium Development Goal 4 – Reduce child mortality**

74. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 4, including by:

(a) Scaling up efforts to achieve integrated management of childhood illnesses, particularly actions to address and prevent the main causes of child mortality, including newborn and infant mortality, these being, inter alia, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition. This can be achieved by developing, implementing and evaluating appropriate national strategies, policies and programmes for child survival, preventive pre-natal, para-natal and post-natal measures, vaccinations and immunization and by working to ensure that medicines, medical products and technologies are affordable and available. In addition, this can be achieved by improved nutrition, including nutrition prior to birth, as well as by strengthening specific health interventions, including emergency obstetric care and skilled attendance at birth to reduce maternal and child mortality. International support to national efforts, including financial resources, will continue to be key in this regard;

(b) Sustaining major successes and scaling up prevention and vaccination programmes as one of the most efficient tools to reduce child mortality, including the measles, polio, tuberculosis and tetanus campaigns, by ensuring sufficient funding, political commitment and conscientious implementation of control activities, especially in priority countries;

(c) Taking action to improve child nutrition through an integrated package of essential interventions and services, including, in particular, access to nutritious food, appropriate supplements, prevention and early management of diarrhoeal diseases and information and support for exclusive breastfeeding and for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition;

(d) Maintaining progress with regard to combating malaria and the extension of the use of insecticide-treated bed nets;

(e) Stepping up the fight against pneumonia and diarrhoea through the greater use of proven highly effective preventive and treatment measures, as well as new tools, such as new vaccines, which are affordable even in the poorest countries;

(f) Scaling up efforts, including awareness raising, to address the critical impact of increasing access to safe drinking water, sanitation coverage and hygienic care, including hand washing with soap, on reducing the death rate among children as a result of diarrhoeal diseases;

(g) Working to ensure that the next generation is born HIV-free by providing, on an urgent basis, extended and sustainable coverage and improved quality of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission as well as increasing access to paediatric HIV treatment services.

### **Millennium Development Goal 5 – Improve maternal health**

75. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5, including by:

(a) Taking steps to realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

(b) Addressing reproductive, maternal and child health, including newborn health, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and methods for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide accessible and affordable integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care;

(c) Building on effective, multisectoral and integrated approaches. We emphasize the need for the provision of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, including integrating family planning, sexual health and health-care services in national strategies and programmes;

(d) Taking action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, such as poverty, malnutrition, harmful practices, lack of accessible and appropriate health-care services, information and education and gender inequality, and paying particular attention to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) Ensuring that all women, men and young people have information about, access to and choice of the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning;

(f) Expanding the provision of comprehensive obstetric care and strengthening the role of skilled health-care providers, including midwives and nurses, through their training and retention in order to fully utilize their potential as trusted providers of maternal health-care services, as well as expanding family planning within local communities and expanding and upgrading formal and informal training in sexual and reproductive health care and family planning for all health-care providers, health educators and managers, including training in interpersonal communications and counselling.

**Millennium Development Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

76. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 6, including by:

(a) Redoubling efforts to achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services as an essential step in achieving Millennium Development Goal 6 and as a contribution to reaching the other Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Significantly intensifying prevention efforts and increasing access to treatment by scaling up strategically aligned programmes aimed at reducing the vulnerability of persons more likely to be infected with HIV, combining biomedical, behavioural and social and structural interventions, and through the empowerment of women and adolescent girls so as to increase their capacity to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection and through the promotion and protection of all human rights. Prevention programmes should take into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values, including information, education and communication in languages most understood by local communities and should be respectful of cultures, with the aim of reducing risk-taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm-reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and should promote policies that ensure effective prevention and accelerate research and development into new tools for prevention, including microbicides and vaccines;

(c) Dealing with HIV/AIDS from a developmental perspective, which requires a national network of sound and workable institutions and multisectoral prevention, treatment, care and support strategies, addressing the stigmatization of and discrimination against people living with HIV and promoting their social integration, rehabilitation and greater involvement in HIV response, as well as strengthening national efforts at HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and strengthening efforts to eliminate the mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

(d) Building new strategic partnerships to strengthen and leverage the linkages between HIV and other health- and development-related initiatives, expanding, to the greatest extent possible and with the support of international cooperation and partnerships, national capacity to deliver comprehensive HIV/AIDS programmes, as well as new and more effective antiretroviral treatments, in ways that strengthen existing national health and social systems, as well as using HIV platforms as a foundation for the expansion of service delivery. In this regard, expediting action to integrate HIV information and services into programmes for primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, including voluntary family planning and mother and child health, treatment for tuberculosis, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections and care for children affected, orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, as well as nutrition and formal and informal education;

(e) Planning for long-term sustainability, including addressing the expected increase in demand for second and third line drug regimens to treat HIV, malaria and tuberculosis;

(f) Strengthening support to affected countries in order to respond to HIV co-infection with tuberculosis, as well as multi-drug resistant and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis, including through earlier detection of all forms of tuberculosis;

(g) Sustaining national efforts and programmes, with the support of the international community, to address the challenges posed by malaria by strengthening effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies, including by ensuring the accessibility to and availability of affordable, quality and effective medicines, generics, including artemisinin-combination therapy, as well as progress in the use of long-lasting, safe insecticide-treated bed nets to combat malaria and strengthening ongoing research for the prompt development of malaria vaccines;

(h) Renewing efforts to prevent and treat neglected tropical diseases, prevention and treatment services for malaria and tuberculosis, including by improving national health information systems, strengthening international cooperation, accelerating further research and development, developing innovative vaccines and medicines and adopting comprehensive prevention strategies;

(i) Undertaking concerted action and a coordinated response at the national, regional and global levels in order to adequately address the developmental and other challenges posed by non-communicable diseases, namely cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, working towards a successful high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2011;

(j) Increasing efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, strengthening the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases, including by providing adequate funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and through the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other multilateral and bilateral channels, strengthening innovative financing mechanisms, as appropriate, and contributing to the long-term sustainability of the response.

#### **Millennium Development Goal 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability**

77. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7, including by:

(a) Pursuing sustainable development, in accordance with the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>23</sup> including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and taking into account the respective capabilities of countries, with a view to effectively implementing the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges;

(b) Pursuing environmental sustainability through nationally owned comprehensive and coherent planning frameworks and the adoption of national legislation, in accordance with national circumstances and the appropriate implementation capacity; supporting developing countries in this regard in building capacity and providing financial resources; and promoting the development and

<sup>23</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable technology and the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(c) Supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>24</sup> through joint action of the international community in addressing the causes and poverty impacts of desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, consistent with articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, taking into account the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),<sup>25</sup> and supporting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, including from regional cooperation, and the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources;

(d) Strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to effectively implement the global objectives on forest and the sustainable forest management of all types of forests in order to reduce the loss of forest cover and improve the livelihoods of those that depend on forests through the development of a comprehensive and more effective approach to financing activities,<sup>26</sup> involvement of local and indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders, promoting good governance at the national and international levels, and enhancing international cooperation to address the threats posed by illicit activities;

(e) Continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>27</sup> and addressing implementation gaps, where appropriate, including through the fulfilment of commitments significantly reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity, including by preserving and maintaining knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities; and continuing ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access and benefit sharing. We look forward to the successful outcome of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010;

(f) Supporting the implementation of national policies and strategies to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy sources and low emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, as well as promoting access to modern, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services and enhancing national capacities to meet the growing energy demand, as appropriate, supported by international cooperation in this field and by the promotion of the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable energy technologies and the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(g) Maintaining that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>7</sup> is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, calling upon States to take urgent global action to

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<sup>24</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>25</sup> A/C.2/62/7, annex.

<sup>26</sup> In accordance with the mandate set out in the resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2, sect. I.B, para. 3).

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and looking forward to a successful and ambitious outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010;

(h) Continuing to increase sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by prioritizing integrated water and sanitation strategies, which include the restoration, upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, as well as promoting integrated water management in national planning and exploring innovative ways of improving the tracking and monitoring of water quality;

(i) Promoting integrated waste management systems, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and with international financial and technological support, as appropriate;

(j) Redoubling efforts to close the sanitation gap through scaled-up ground-level action, supported by strong political will and increased community participation, in accordance with national development strategies, promoting the mobilization and provision of adequate financial and technological resources, technical know-how and capacity-building for developing countries in order to increase the coverage of basic sanitation, especially for the poor, and noting in this regard the global effort to realize “Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015”;

(k) Working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, with adequate support of the international community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development;

(l) Taking measures to ensure the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including fish stocks, which contribute to food security and hunger and poverty eradication efforts, including through ecosystem approaches to ocean management, and to address the adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity;

(m) Supporting the efforts of countries to preserve fragile mountain ecosystems as an important source of fresh water and as repositories of rich biological diversity, with a view to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty;

(n) Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, in accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”);<sup>4</sup>

(o) Fostering a greater level of coordination among national and local institutions responsible for economic and social development and environmental protection, including with respect to the promotion of investments relevant for sustainable development;

(p) Working towards a successful United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

**Millennium Development Goal 8 – Develop a global partnership for development**

78. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 8, including by:

(a) Accelerating efforts to deliver on and fully implement existing Millennium Development Goal 8 commitments by enhancing the global partnership for development to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

(b) Supporting the implementation of national development strategies by developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, including through external financial and technical support, to further promote economic growth and to respond to the increased challenges posed by the impact of the multiple crises, as well as long-term structural obstacles;

(c) Recognizing that the commitments made by developed and developing countries in relation to the Millennium Development Goals require mutual accountability;

(d) Strengthening the central role of the United Nations in enhancing global partnerships for development, with a view to creating a supportive global environment for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

(e) Enhancing financing for development in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, foreign direct investment, international trade, international financial and technical cooperation for development, and debt and systemic issues by meeting our commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus<sup>3</sup> and reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development<sup>5</sup> and all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, thus expanding fiscal capacity for financing the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

(f) 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 to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries. To reach their agreed timetables, donor countries should take all necessary and appropriate measures to raise the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments. We urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make additional concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries, including the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries in line with the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>8</sup> in accordance with their commitments. To build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively, we stress the importance of democratic governance, improved transparency and accountability, and managing for results. We strongly encourage all donors to establish, as soon as possible, rolling indicative timetables that illustrate how they aim to reach their goals, in accordance with their respective budget allocation process. We stress the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support in developed countries towards

the fulfilment of their commitments, including by raising public awareness, and by providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results;

(g) Making rapid progress to fulfil the Gleneagles and other donors' substantial commitments to increase aid through a variety of means. We are concerned that at the current rate the commitment of doubling aid to Africa by 2010 will not be reached;

(h) Exploring new innovative finance mechanisms and strengthening and scaling up existing ones, where appropriate, given their potential to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Such voluntary mechanisms should be effective and should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, they should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of finance and should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and not unduly burden them. We note the ongoing work in this regard, including by the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development as well as by the Task Force on International Financial Transactions for Development and the Task Force on Innovative Financing for Education;

(i) Enhancing and strengthening domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, broadening the tax base and effectively combating tax evasion and capital flight. While each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters. We look forward to the upcoming report by the Secretary-General examining the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters;

(j) Implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information. In this regard, strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including support to developing countries and technical assistance to enhance their capacities. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets, in particular to their countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;<sup>13</sup>

(k) Fully supporting and further developing a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, inter alia, by working expeditiously towards a balanced and ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda<sup>28</sup> of multilateral trade negotiations, in order to bring benefits to all and contribute to enhancing the integration of developing countries into the system, while recognizing the importance of making progress in key areas of the Doha Development Agenda of special interest to developing countries, and reaffirming the importance of special and differential treatment referred to therein;

(l) Emphasizing the critical importance of rejecting protectionism and not turning inward in times of financial uncertainty, mindful of the importance of trade for economic growth and development and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

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<sup>28</sup> See A/C.2/56/7, annex.



(m) Implementing duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries in conformity with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;<sup>29</sup>

(n) Further implementing aid for trade, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, to help strengthen and enhance the trade capacity and international competitiveness of developing countries so as to ensure equitable benefits from increased trading opportunities and to foster economic growth;

(o) Strengthening regional integration and trade as it is crucial for significant development benefits, growth and jobs and for generating resources to sustain progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(p) Fulfilling, in the Doha Development Agenda,<sup>28</sup> the 2005 pledge of members of the World Trade Organization to ensure the parallel elimination in agriculture of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect to be completed by the end of 2013;

(q) Assisting developing countries in ensuring long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, while noting also that developing countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and stabilize negative macroeconomic developments;

(r) Considering enhanced approaches to sovereign debt restructuring mechanisms based on existing frameworks and principles, the broad participation of creditors and debtors, the comparable treatment of all creditors and an important role for the Bretton Woods institutions, and in this regard welcoming and calling upon all countries to contribute to the ongoing discussion in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and other forums on the need for, and feasibility of, a more structured framework for international cooperation in this area;

(s) Increasing partnerships with businesses to achieve positive development outcomes by mobilizing private sector resources that contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(t) Reaffirming the right to use, to the full, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement),<sup>30</sup> the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health,<sup>31</sup> the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health,<sup>32</sup> and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the Agreement,<sup>33</sup> which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and encourage the provision of

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<sup>29</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC. Available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

<sup>30</sup> See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

<sup>31</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(01)/DEC/2. Available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

<sup>32</sup> See World Trade Organization, document WT/L/540 and Corr.1. Available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

<sup>33</sup> See World Trade Organization, document WT/L/641. Available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

assistance to developing countries in this regard. We also call for a broad and timely acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the Agreement, as proposed by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;<sup>33</sup>

(u) Promoting the strategic role of science and technology, including information technology and innovation in areas relevant for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular agricultural productivity, water management and sanitation, energy security and public health. The capacity for technological innovation needs to be greatly enhanced in developing countries, and there is an urgent need for the international community to facilitate the availability of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how by promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable technology, and the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms, in order to strengthen national innovation and research and development capacity;

(v) Strengthening public-private partnerships in order to close the large gaps that remain in access to and affordability of information and communications technology across countries and income groups, including by upgrading the quality and quantity of existing telecommunication infrastructure, particularly in the least developed countries, to support more modern information and communications technology applications and greatly increase connectivity, access and investment in innovation and development and the effective use of innovative information and communications technology applications and e-governance tools; and in this regard encouraging further operationalizing of the voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund;

(w) Strengthening cooperation between originating and receiving countries to lower the transaction costs of remittances, especially promoting conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances, which can contribute to national efforts for development.

### **Staying engaged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

79. We request the General Assembly to continue to review, on an annual basis, the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including in the implementation of the present outcome document. We request the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session to organize a special event in 2013 to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

80. We reaffirm the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly through the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum. We look forward to the upcoming review of the strengthening of the Council during the current session of the Assembly.

81. We request the Secretary-General to report annually on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015 and to make recommendations in his annual reports, as appropriate, for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

*9th plenary meeting  
22 September 2010*



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## Sixty-eighth session

Item 118 of the provisional agenda\*

### Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

## **A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [65/1](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015 and to make recommendations for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

Renewed efforts are essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the end of 2015. While providing an assessment of progress to date, the report also identifies policies and programmes that have driven success in the achievement of the Goals and can contribute to accelerating it. These include emphasizing inclusive growth, decent employment and social protection; allocating more resources for essential services and ensuring access for all; strengthening political will and improving the international policy environment; and harnessing the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

A new post-2015 era demands a new vision and a responsive framework. Sustainable development — enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship — must become our global guiding principle and operational standard. This is a universal agenda that requires profound economic transformations and a new global partnership. It also requires that the international community, including the United Nations, embrace a more coherent and effective response to support the agenda. As we make the transition to this new era, we need to continue the work begun with the Millennium Development Goals and ensure that extreme poverty is ended within a generation. In keeping with United Nations principles, this post-2015 framework can bring together the full range of human aspirations and needs to ensure a life of dignity for all.

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\* [A/68/150](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The world's quest for dignity, peace, prosperity, justice, sustainability and an end to poverty has reached an unprecedented moment of urgency.
2. In 2000, the States Members of the United Nations agreed on a bold vision for the future that reaffirmed the fundamental values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for the planet and shared responsibility.
3. That vision, enshrined in the Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and rooted in the Charter of the United Nations, recognized the need to pool efforts as never before and to advance on three fronts simultaneously: development, peace and security, and human rights. Global challenges, local solutions; shared burden, shared gain: this remains the credo of international action for our collective well-being.
4. Among the promises made in the Millennium Declaration was a compelling pledge to spare no effort to free all women, men, girls and boys from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of poverty. The call itself was not new; the commitment to better standards of living is part of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. But what was new was the sense of possibility — the conviction that through a combination of targets, tangible investments, genuine action and political will, countries and people working together could end poverty in all its forms.
5. The Millennium Development Goals gave expression to this resolve. Since their adoption, Governments, partners and an inspiring constellation of groups and individuals around the world have mobilized to tackle the many dimensions of poverty. Those efforts have generated unprecedented advances in human development.
6. There has been substantial progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and several successes in reaching specific targets globally and in individual countries. However, the prospects for achieving all of the Goals differ sharply across and within countries and regions. More than a billion people still live in extreme poverty. Far too many people face serious deprivation in health and education, with progress hampered by significant inequality related to income, gender, ethnicity, disability, age and location. The prolonged global economic downturn and violent conflicts in recent years have exacerbated poverty, inequality and exclusion. Biodiversity loss, the degradation of water, drylands and forests and the intensifying risks of climate change threaten to reverse our achievements to date and undermine any future gains.
7. We must do everything we can to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the end of 2015. That work is unfinished and must continue in order to secure the well-being, dignity and rights of those still on the margins today, as well as of future generations. By meeting our existing commitments, we will be in the best possible position from which to agree upon and implement a universal agenda for sustainable development after 2015.
8. At the same time, the world has changed radically since the turn of the millennium. New economic powers have emerged, new technologies are reshaping our societies and new patterns of human settlement and activity are heightening the pressures on our planet. Inequality is rising in rich and poor countries alike.

9. A new era demands a new vision and a responsive framework. Sustainable development, enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship, must become our global guiding principle and operational standard. This framework can bring together the full range of human aspirations and needs. It offers a template for mutually reinforcing approaches to global challenges. Sustainable development is, in short, the pathway to the future.

10. So the challenge remains, even as it has taken on new complexity and increased in scale: we must fulfil our promises and meet the aspirations of the world's peoples, and we must summon the unity to realize the dream of the Charter and the Millennium Declaration. Ours is the first generation with the resources and know-how to end extreme poverty and put our planet on a sustainable course before it is too late.

11. The transition to sustainable development must not mean any diminishment whatsoever in the commitment to ending poverty. As underscored in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012 (General Assembly resolution [66/288](#)), poverty eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. This is a matter of basic justice and human rights. It is also a historic opportunity. If ours is the generation that can end poverty, there should be no deferring this essential mission, no shrinking away from the task. In a world of great wealth and technological advances, no person anywhere should be left behind. No person should go hungry, lack shelter or clean water and sanitation, face social and economic exclusion or live without access to basic health services and education. These are human rights, and form the foundations for a decent life.

12. Nor can progress be achieved or sustained amid armed conflict, violence, insecurity and injustice. These ills often have roots in social and economic deprivation and inequality. In the same vein, poverty can be a precursor and breeding ground of instability. We know that upholding human rights and freeing people from fear and want are inseparable; it is imperative that we do more to act on this basic truth.

13. The present report is intended to galvanize greater efforts to end poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. We will need enlightened and courageous leadership in the halls of government and the engagement of responsible businesses and civil society the world over. I have drawn considerable inspiration from a dynamic United Nations-led process — a global conversation launched in 2012 on the priorities of a new development agenda that would build on the Millennium Development Goals. In a series of global, regional and national consultations in nearly 100 countries and through a social media platform, more than a million people have shared their views on “the world they want”. I am profoundly grateful to all who expressed their hopes and expectations and offered ideas and constructive criticism. The United Nations is strongly committed not just to listening to those voices, but also to amplifying and acting on what we have heard and learned.

14. In defining a new agenda, Member States can also benefit from the insights of a set of illuminating reports. My High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia, and David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, called for major transformative economic and institutional shifts: a new

global partnership and a data revolution for monitoring progress and strengthening accountability.

15. Reports by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Global Compact Office, the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, the regional commissions and our partners in civil society and academia have also provided important inputs and recommendations for the formulation and content of the processes ahead.

16. The common ground in these contributions far outweighs any differences. Indeed, it is possible to see the emerging outlines of a new sustainable development agenda: universal in nature yet responsive to the complexities, needs and capacities of individual countries and regions; bold in ambition but simple in design; combining the economic, social and environmental dimensions while putting the highest priority on ending poverty and reducing inequality; protective of the planet, its biodiversity, water and land; rights-based, with particular emphasis on women, young people and marginalized groups; eager for new and innovative partnerships; and supported by pioneering approaches to data and rigorous accountability mechanisms. Guided by this far-reaching vision, a limited set of goals with sustainable development at the core, as called for at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, could be constructed to encapsulate current challenges and the priorities of the new agenda and to guide the transformation we need.

17. In the present report we take stock of where we are and where we need to go — first, in the time that remains until the end of 2015, and second, in the period beyond that. As a contribution to the discussions and negotiations of Member States, I offer my sense of the lessons we have derived from the Millennium Development Goals and set out a number of possible elements for consideration in charting a way forward. I look forward to a rich process of consultation and debate as the crucial year of 2015 draws near.

18. We are all aware of the vulnerabilities and perils that define daily life across the world. But there is also simultaneously a sense of wondrous potential made possible in part by science and technology but even more by our own hard work and devotion to common progress. Based on everything I have seen and heard during my six and a half years as Secretary-General, I am convinced that, collectively, we have the leadership, conviction and courage to address short-term uncertainties while seizing the opportunity for long-term change. In that spirit of hope and resolve, I offer the present report to the membership of the United Nations.

## **II. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and accelerating progress**

19. The Millennium Development Goals are our promise to the world's poorest and most vulnerable. They have succeeded in placing people at the centre of the development agenda.

20. We have made remarkable progress. Many countries — including some of the poorest — have aligned their policies and resources with the Goals to make unparalleled gains. Several critical targets have already been met or will be met by the end of 2015, both at the aggregate level and in individual countries. Sizable gains have occurred in even the poorest countries.

21. However, progress has been insufficient and highly uneven. Rural areas and marginalized groups continue to lag behind on virtually all goals and targets. Countries in or emerging from conflict, disaster or instability face significant challenges. In addition, the economic and financial crisis has complicated efforts, including by putting pressure on official development assistance.

22. Yet progress continues. In the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, it is stressed that despite challenges and gaps, the agenda embodied by the Goals retains great power in engendering collective action for faster results.

## A. Where do we stand on the Goals?

23. At the global level, poverty and hunger have been reduced significantly. In developing regions, the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day fell by more than half, from 47 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010, with the majority living in rural areas. Much of this progress, however, has been made in a few large countries, primarily China and India. Moreover, even if the poverty target has been met, 1.2 billion people are still living in extreme poverty. For example, despite recent strong economic growth and declining poverty rates in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living in poverty is rising, and the region is still vulnerable to shocks that can rapidly erode gains.

24. The target of halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger by 2015 is within reach. The proportion of undernourished people in developing regions fell from 23.2 per cent in the period from 1990 to 1992 to 14.9 per cent in 2010-2012. However, one in eight people remain chronically undernourished, and one in four children suffers from stunted growth because of malnutrition.

25. We risk failing to keep our promise to enable all children to go to school. The number of children out of primary school declined from 102 million to 57 million between 2000 and 2011. But progress has slowed significantly over the past five years. Without renewed efforts, the target of universal primary education by 2015 seems beyond reach, particularly in conflict-affected countries. Half the world's out-of-school children live in sub-Saharan Africa, with the gap largest for children and adolescents from the poorest households. Much stronger efforts are needed to improve the quality of education and provide lifelong learning opportunities, especially for girls and women, those belonging to ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and children living in conflict-affected areas, rural areas or urban slums.

26. Women and girls are major drivers of development. Yet challenges to achieving gender equality and women's rights remain significant. In many developing countries, girls are denied their right to primary education. Women have been gaining employment in non-agricultural sectors, but often in less secure jobs with fewer social benefits than those held by men. In both the public and private spheres, women continue to be denied opportunities to influence decisions that affect their lives. Gender-based violence contravenes women's and girls' rights, undermines development and is an affront to our common humanity.

27. Despite significant progress globally and in many countries, a renewed commitment is needed to improve the health and life prospects of mothers and children. The mortality rate for children under 5 dropped by 41 per cent between 1990 and 2011 — a significant achievement, yet far short of the target of a two-thirds reduction. The maternal mortality rate fell by 47 per cent over the past

two decades — again, important progress, but still far from the target of 75 per cent. Intensified efforts are needed to reach the most vulnerable women and children and ensure their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, including full access to basic health services and sexual and reproductive education.

28. New HIV infections declined by 21 per cent globally over the past decade, and close to 10 million people living with HIV are receiving lifesaving antiretroviral treatment. Expanded treatment and prevention yielded a 25 per cent reduction in AIDS-related deaths between 2005 and 2011. Yet 2.5 million new infections still occur each year and in many parts of the globe, millions lack access to treatment. The last decade saw a 25 per cent fall in mortality rates from malaria globally, sparing the lives of an estimated 1.1 million people. Between 1995 and 2011, 51 million tuberculosis patients were treated successfully, saving 20 million lives.

29. Some of the targets for ensuring environmental sustainability have been achieved: the target for improved water sources was met ahead of schedule, and over the past decade over 200 million slum dwellers — double the target — benefited from improved water and sanitation facilities, durable housing or sufficient living space. Furthermore, from 1990 to 2011, 1.9 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facility. With rapid urbanization and population growth, however, the number of slum dwellers is on the rise. Two and a half billion people lack access to improved sanitation, while a billion practise open defecation, a continued source of illness.

30. In all countries, the achievement of Goal 7, on ensuring environmental sustainability, remains at significant risk because of the profound and urgent challenges posed by climate change. Carbon dioxide emissions are more than 46 per cent higher than in 1990. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has exceeded 400 parts per million, a level not seen in millions of years and threatening the existence of the planet.

31. Biodiversity loss continues at a rapid pace. Freshwater resources are being depleted and fish stocks are overexploited. Land degradation and desertification, ocean acidification and the loss of species and forests continue at an alarming rate.

32. As shown in the forthcoming MDG Gap Task Force Report 2013, progress towards a global partnership for development has fallen short of expectations. Following an encouraging rise in official development assistance since 2000, over the past two years aid flows have declined. Despite significant debt relief for many countries, the debt-servicing burden of some low-income countries remains intolerably high. Progress in improving market access for many developing countries has been slow, and “aid for trade” has not escaped the impact of reduced official development assistance. Despite welcome gains in connectivity, a substantial digital divide remains between developed and developing regions.

## **B. Which policies and programmes have best driven progress?**

33. It is crucial to know what works and what does not. More than a decade of experience has painted a revealing picture. Strong national ownership and well-managed policies, supported coherently by partners at all levels, has underpinned progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Policies that foster robust and inclusive economic growth, accompanied by measures to improve the access of poor and excluded people to quality basic services, have produced



gains in many countries. Much has been learned by formulating and implementing those policies. Applying these lessons will be important for making more rapid progress in the time that remains.

### **Emphasizing inclusive growth, decent employment and social protection**

34. Inclusive economic growth with decent employment and decent wages has proven to be a prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 1, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Progress in East Asia has been strong, and several countries in Latin America and Africa have successfully combined economic growth and redistributive policies.

35. Targeted investments in public health systems, fighting disease, education, infrastructure and agricultural productivity have all played important roles in achieving the Goals and promoting economic growth. These interventions work in a synergistic way and are therefore highly effective in integrated development programmes. Cash transfers targeting poor and marginalized families have also bolstered progress.

36. In East Asia, reforms in the agricultural sector have lifted hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty. Many Governments in the region have also adopted policies that increase social spending, expand social protection and raise the minimum wage.

37. Policies promoting rural employment have proved to have positive results in terms of poverty reduction, food consumption, household spending on education and health, debt reduction and asset creation.

38. In addition, programmes in Latin America and South-East Asia that have combined increased food production and distribution with skills training, microfinance, land distribution and nutrition education programmes have had positive impacts on child mortality and maternal health.

### **Allocating more resources for essential services and ensuring access for all**

39. To accelerate progress on education, some countries have eliminated school fees and reduced the indirect costs of schooling. In Africa and the Middle East, policies have targeted orphans and other vulnerable children with vouchers for uniforms and books. In Asia, countries have scaled up stipend programmes and introduced financial support mechanisms for ethnic minority students.

40. In West Africa, complementing investments in infrastructure with female literacy campaigns to overcome resistance to girls' education in rural areas led to a significant increase in the rate of enrolment of girls in primary schools.

41. Some countries have expanded access to primary education while tackling gender disparities at the same time. Achieving the parity target by 2015 is within reach if entrenched gender disadvantages can be overcome, particularly in countries where early marriage remains pervasive.

42. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have launched nationwide midwifery schemes to train and deploy tens of thousands of front-line health workers to accelerate progress in preventing maternal and child mortality.

43. Improved national strategies supported by additional financial resources have contributed to faster progress on the Millennium Development Goals in the area of

health in many countries. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the GAVI Alliance and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief have played a major role, complementing national efforts.

44. Investments in human and physical infrastructure for the public health-care sector are paying off in South Asia, where services have been provided free of charge in facilities close to patients.

45. Policies supporting free universal access to quality primary health care for women and children have reduced child mortality in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially when special attention is given to reducing deaths from malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea and measles and to rapidly scaling up the provision of insecticide-treated bednets, measles vaccine and vitamin A supplements.

46. National initiatives have proven to be effective in achieving water and sanitation targets. In South-East Asia, partnerships between local governments, builders and community leaders have been launched to meet the need for drinking water and sanitation. Access to latrines has increased significantly, driven by community empowerment activities, strengthened institutions and a community hygiene campaign.

#### **Strengthening political will and improving the international policy environment**

47. The global nature of many current challenges requires coordinated global action. I am very concerned by any developments or trends that threaten the global partnership for development, a core part of the Millennium Development Goal framework. There is an urgent need to stop and reverse the two-year contraction of official development assistance and aid for trade, especially for the least developed countries. Stakeholders should strengthen coordination and follow through on commitments to and for effective aid delivery, as well as cracking down on illicit capital flows, returning stolen assets and stemming tax avoidance and evasion.

48. I urge the members of the World Trade Organization to redouble their efforts to reach a development-oriented conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and improve duty-free, quota-free market access for products of least developed countries. Further efforts are needed to ensure timely debt relief for critically indebted developing countries, thus improving their chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

49. A stronger partnership is also needed among governments, pharmaceutical companies, research facilities and philanthropic organizations to make essential medicines more affordable and available in public health facilities, including using the provisions available to developing countries in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

50. Limiting and reversing the increase in the average global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in line with international agreements demands bold, coordinated national and international action. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change contains commitments and guidance, most notably the agreement of Governments to negotiate an ambitious, legally binding global agreement by 2015 that will cover all countries of the world in a fair way. The situation calls for full and urgent adherence to what was agreed.

51. Bolder measures are equally urgent on other environmental sustainability targets, including those related to biodiversity, water, land use and forests. Where commitments already exist, we need faster implementation of the corresponding multilateral environmental agreements.

52. With support from the international community, developing countries should accelerate efforts to improve the transfer of and access to information and communications technology, as well as to lower its cost, especially in key service-delivery areas. In order for technology transfers to countries embracing deep structural economic transformations to be successful, the institutional and human capacity gaps will need to be addressed at the local level.

53. The multi-stakeholder partnership model has emerged as a promising way to share burdens, catalyse action and bring all relevant actors to bear in addressing specific problems. We need to mobilize more action to deliver on commitments and exploit the full potential of the partnership approach.

### **C. Accelerating progress towards the Goals to 2015**

54. Fulfilling our existing commitments and promises on the Millennium Development Goals must remain our foremost priority. Member States, with the continued support of development agencies, civil society and the private sector, should and can take bolder action to accelerate progress.

55. Together, we need to focus on those Goals that are most off-track and on countries that face particular development challenges, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries affected by or recovering from conflicts or disasters. In so doing, we must pay particular attention to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable and excluded, such as women, children, the elderly, indigenous people, refugees and displaced families, as well as people with disabilities and those living in poor rural areas and urban slums.

56. The preceding section highlighted some successful strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They show that accelerating progress requires national ownership and international commitment, with the right policies backed by reliable, timely financial resources and people-centred multi-stakeholder partnerships. Countries should make every effort to mobilize domestic resources. At the same time, these resources should be supplemented by external support where necessary.

57. In April I launched the campaign “MDG Momentum — 1,000 Days of Action” as a spur to achieve the gains we need by 2015. My appeal seeks to give additional impetus to several key initiatives that were already under way in response to the call for acceleration made at the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals.

58. The Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework, a coordinated effort by the United Nations Development Group, is firmly rooted in national ownership and supports the systematic identification of bottlenecks and local solutions. Acceleration plans are being implemented in more than 46 countries across all regions, covering a range of goals and targets and bringing together a full spectrum of actors. Those efforts are assessed by the United Nations system in

collaboration with the World Bank under the umbrella of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

59. In one sub-Saharan African country, an acceleration plan on maternal health is being implemented through the revised national reproductive health policy and protocol. This is backed by a multi-pronged strategy that includes the use of mobile telephones for diagnosis and referrals and partnerships with local road transport associations to facilitate the travel of women in labour.

60. When implemented at the subnational level, the Acceleration Framework can also help to address disparity and inequality, as well as underlying causes such as discrimination and sociocultural exclusion. In one South American country, provinces and municipalities are implementing acceleration plans to address local priorities, such as poverty reduction and the economic empowerment of women, where progress lags behind the national level.

61. The €1 billion Millennium Development Goals initiative of the European Union has been supporting countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions to accelerate progress on the Goals that are the most off-track: eradicating hunger, improving maternal health, curbing child mortality and improving access to water and sanitation. Nearly 50 have been supported to date.

62. Regional initiatives are an increasingly important part of the picture. In 2012, the African Union Commission adopted a road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity to accelerate progress in the response to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. The actions in the road map are organized around three strategic pillars: diversified financing, access to medicines and enhanced health governance. Similarly, in 2012, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted a road map for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals focusing on five key areas: advocacy and linkages, knowledge, resources, expertise, and regional cooperation and public goods.

63. Every Woman Every Child, a multi-stakeholder partnership launched in 2010, seeks to save the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015. The United Nations secured commitments of \$20 billion from more than 250 partners, including governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society. A new partnership between governments and United Nations agencies, “Committing to child survival: a promise renewed”, was launched to reduce the under-5 mortality rate to fewer than 20 deaths per 1,000 live births in all countries by 2035.

64. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched in 2011, aims to provide universal access to modern energy, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewables in the global energy mix, all by 2030. Over \$50 billion has been committed from all sectors to make this a reality, and more than 70 countries have signed up.

65. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme mobilizes resources to scale up agricultural assistance to low-income countries. The Zero Hunger Challenge, launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, calls for universal access to adequate food year-round, steps to prevent childhood stunting, a sustainable transformation of food systems, a doubling of productivity and incomes among smallholder farmers and drastic reductions in food losses and waste. Through the “Scaling Up Nutrition” movement, a partnership effort involving governments, civil society, the United Nations system, business and researchers,

more than 100 partners are supporting 40 countries in their efforts to reduce malnutrition and child stunting.

66. The Global Education First Initiative, launched in September 2012, aims to raise the political profile of education and seeks to ensure access, improve the quality of learning and foster global citizenship.

67. The Call to Action on Sanitation, initiated in March, has provided new momentum on an area that has received inadequate attention. The campaign for universal access to bednets by the end of 2010 made important inroads in tackling malaria. The One Million Community Health Workers campaign in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to be critical in generating gains across the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

68. The replenishment of the Global Fund in the third quarter of 2013 will be of decisive significance for continued progress against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. I call upon all donors, public and private, to do their part to support the Fund at this moment of utmost urgency as well as opportunity.

69. Multi-stakeholder arrangements have proven successful because they expand on traditional partnerships by significantly increasing available resources, improving the effectiveness of their use and increasing policy and operational coherence. To build on those advantages, I have put forward a proposal to Member States for a new United Nations Partnership Facility, which would aim to enhance the Organization's ability to facilitate delivery at scale at both the global and country levels.

#### **D. Making the transition to a new sustainable development agenda that builds on the Goals**

70. The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals represented a major shift in galvanizing global political will for poverty eradication. The Goals focused the world's attention on halving extreme poverty and promoting human development by setting priorities, goals and targets. Yet the Goals represent only the halfway mark towards the aim of tackling poverty in all its forms. United Nations projections for 2015 indicate that almost 1.3 billion people will still live in extreme poverty, mothers will continue to die needlessly in childbirth and children will suffer and die from hunger, malnutrition, preventable diseases and a lack of clean water and sanitation.

71. The job we started with the Millennium Development Goals therefore needs to be finished. Careful attention will be needed as we make the transition to an agenda that embraces the three dimensions of sustainable development yet ensures that poverty eradication is its highest priority and that extreme poverty is ended within a generation.

72. Since the Millennium Development Goals were devised, major new challenges have emerged, while existing ones have been exacerbated. Inequality has deepened. Environmental degradation has increased, threatening our common future. People across the world are demanding more responsive governments and better governance and rights at all levels. Migration challenges have grown, and young people in many countries face poor prospects for decent jobs or livelihoods. Conflicts and instability have halted or reversed progress in many countries,

affecting primarily women and children. Organized crime, including trafficking in people and drugs, violates human rights and undermines development. The deepening ways in which the lives of people and countries are linked demand a universal agenda addressing the world's most pressing challenges and seizing the opportunities of a new era.

### **III. Advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015**

#### **A. Vision and transformative actions of the agenda**

73. The articulation of a post-2015 development agenda provides an opportunity to place sustainable development where it should be: at the core of humankind's pursuit of shared progress. With a new sustainable development agenda, the world can make many historic achievements: eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion and economic opportunities for all. Ultimately, the aspiration of the development agenda beyond 2015 is to create a just and prosperous world where all people realize their rights and live with dignity and hope.

74. As agreed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the framework for sustainable development reflects our commitment to three interconnected objectives: economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Each of these dimensions contributes to the others and all are necessary for the well-being of individuals and societies. Together, they are meant to enable people to fulfil their potential within the finite resources of our planet.

75. For such a sustainable development agenda to take root, four building blocks need to be agreed upon: (a) a far-reaching vision of the future firmly anchored in human rights and universally accepted values and principles, including those encapsulated in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Declaration; (b) a set of concise goals and targets aimed at realizing the priorities of the agenda; (c) a global partnership for development to mobilize means of implementation; and (d) a participatory monitoring framework for tracking progress and mutual accountability mechanisms for all stakeholders.

76. Decisions on the shape of the next agenda rest with Member States. To support their deliberations, I put in motion an inclusive and transparent process to hear from all stakeholders. Through the efforts of the United Nations Development Group and others, I sought the views of people around the world through consultations in nearly 100 countries, global thematic consultations on 11 issue areas and a global online conversation and "My World" survey. These efforts have reached more than a million people. A large number of civil society organizations and academic institutions worldwide have also actively participated in the discussions.

77. In addition, my High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda provided critical proposals (see [A/67/890](#), annex). I have made the report available to all Member States and recommend it as an important contribution to this process.

78. I also benefited from the expertise of the science and technology community through the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The contributions of the

private sector around the world were conveyed through the Global Compact. The United Nations System Task Team, comprising more than 60 agencies and international organizations, conveyed the knowledge and experience of the Organization, while regional perspectives were provided by the regional commissions.

79. Reflecting on many of these inputs, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals is conducting a series of discussions aimed at formulating goals for sustainable development to be proposed to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

80. The common ground in the findings of these processes is encouraging. Discussions point to the importance of arriving at a single and coherent development agenda centred on sustainable development, applicable to all countries while taking into account regional, national and local circumstances and priorities.

81. The key elements of the emerging vision for the development agenda beyond 2015 include: (a) universality, to mobilize all developed and developing countries and leave no one behind; (b) sustainable development, to tackle the interlinked challenges facing the world, including a clear focus on ending extreme poverty in all its forms; (c) inclusive economic transformations ensuring decent jobs, backed by sustainable technologies, to shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production; (d) peace and governance, as key outcomes and enablers of development; (e) a new global partnership, recognizing shared interests, different needs and mutual responsibilities, to ensure commitment to and means of implementing the new vision; and (f) being “fit for purpose”, to ensure that the international community is equipped with the right institutions and tools for addressing the challenges of implementing the sustainable development agenda at the national level.

82. Bringing this vision to life will require a number of transformative and mutually reinforcing actions that apply to all countries.

83. **Eradicate poverty in all its forms.** Poverty has many manifestations and is aggravated by discrimination, insecurity, inequality and environmental and disaster risks. Therefore, the eradication of poverty calls for a multifaceted approach, encapsulated in the concept of sustainable development, focusing on both immediate and underlying causes.

84. **Tackle exclusion and inequality.** In order to leave no one behind and bring everyone forward, actions are needed to promote equality of opportunity. This implies inclusive economies in which men and women have access to decent employment, legal identification, financial services, infrastructure and social protection, as well as societies where all people can contribute and participate in national and local governance.

85. **Empower women and girls.** The new agenda must ensure the equal rights of women and girls, their full participation in the political, economic and public spheres and zero tolerance for violence against or exploitation of women and girls. The practice of child marriage must be ended everywhere. Women and girls must have equal access to financial services, infrastructure, the full range of health services, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and water and sanitation; the right to own land and other assets; a safe environment in which to learn and apply their knowledge and skills; and an end to

discrimination so they can receive equal pay for equal work and have an equal voice in decision-making.

86. **Provide quality education and lifelong learning.** Young people should be able to receive high-quality education and learning, from early childhood development to post-primary schooling, including not only formal schooling but also life skills and vocational education and training.

87. **Improve health.** Address universal health-care coverage, access and affordability; end preventable maternal and child deaths; realize women's reproductive health and rights; increase immunization coverage; eradicate malaria and realize the vision of a future free of AIDS and tuberculosis; reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, including mental illness, and road accidents; and promote healthy behaviours, including those related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

88. **Address climate change.** The international community must reconcile the challenges of mitigating and adapting to climate change while supporting the growth of developing countries. While the worst effects of climate change can still be averted by building the resilience of and investing in those communities and nations most vulnerable to disasters risk, those efforts will require a greatly stepped-up response, in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. A successful outcome to the intergovernmental climate change negotiations is critical. Every effort must be made to arrive at a legally binding agreement by the end of 2015, as decided in Durban, South Africa, in 2011.

89. **Address environmental challenges.** Environmental change has compounded problems worldwide, especially in vulnerable countries, reducing their capacity to cope and limiting their options for addressing development challenges. Managing the natural resources base — fisheries, forests, freshwater resources, oceans, soil — is essential for sustainable development. So too is building the resilience of and investing in those communities and nations most vulnerable to disasters, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States.

90. **Promote inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment.** This can be achieved by economic diversification, financial inclusion, efficient infrastructure, productivity gains, trade, sustainable energy, relevant education and skills training. Labour market policies should focus in particular on young people, women and people with disabilities.

91. **End hunger and malnutrition.** Addressing hunger, malnutrition, stunting and food insecurity in a world experiencing rapid population growth will require a combination of stable and adequate incomes for all, improvements in agricultural productivity and sustainability, child and maternal care and strengthened social protection for vulnerable populations.

92. **Address demographic challenges.** While the population of developed countries is projected to remain unchanged at around 1.3 billion, the population of developing countries is projected to increase from 5.9 billion in 2013 to 8.2 billion in 2050. Countries with a high rate of population growth are generally on a path of falling fertility, especially as education for girls and sexual and reproductive health services become more widely available. Progress in these areas would enable many households to slow fertility rates, with consequent benefits for health, education, sustainability and the demographic dividend for economic growth. Countries with a



high proportion of young people need to offer education and opportunities for decent work. Countries with an ageing population need policy responses to support the elderly so as to remove barriers to their full participation in society while protecting their rights and dignity.

93. **Enhance the positive contribution of migrants.** More than a billion people rely on international and domestic migration to improve the income, health and education of their families, escape poverty and conflict and adapt to environmental and economic shocks. Countries receiving migrants can also benefit significantly. Yet many barriers limit the positive effects of migration, including possible large economic and social gains. Discrimination is widespread and the human rights of migrants are often denied at different points in the migration process. The scourge of human trafficking, an unacceptable dimension of migration, must be ended.

94. **Meet the challenges of urbanization.** Some 70 per cent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. Urbanization poses the challenge of providing city dwellers with employment, food, income, housing, transportation, clean water and sanitation, social services and cultural amenities. At the same time, living in cities creates opportunities for the more efficient delivery and use of physical facilities and amenities. Rural prosperity, land management and secure ecosystem services should form an integral part of sustainable urbanization and economic transformation.

95. **Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions.** Peace and stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law and transparent institutions are outcomes and enablers of development. There can be no peace without development and no development without peace. Lasting peace and sustainable development cannot be fully realized without respect for human rights and the rule of law. Transparency and accountability are powerful tools for ensuring citizens' involvement in policymaking and their oversight of the use of public resources, including to prevent waste and corruption. Legal empowerment, access to justice and an independent judiciary and universal legal identification can also be critical for gaining access to public services.

96. **Foster a renewed global partnership.** The Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 8, on the global partnership for development, speak to the importance of our common humanity and the values of equity, solidarity and human rights. The post-2015 development agenda will need to be supported by a renewed global partnership grounded on such values. As noted in the report of my High-level Panel, "the partnership should capture, and will depend on, a spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit".

97. The global partnership should finish the job started with Goal 8, including meeting the assistance objective of 0.7 per cent of gross national income, as well as other existing and future intergovernmental agreements, such as the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Istanbul Programme of Action, as well as the outcome of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. All partners should deliver on past commitments, particularly those on official development assistance, climate finance and domestic resource mobilization.

98. The transformative actions of the post-2015 development agenda should be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships that respond to the sustainable development agenda. These should include not only governments but also businesses, private philanthropic foundations, international organizations, civil society, volunteer groups, local authorities, parliaments, trade unions, research institutes and academia. Such partnerships can channel commitments and actions from a wider set of actors, and their success depends on assigning roles, responsibilities and clear accountability.

99. Official development assistance will remain crucial, including for leveraging other finance, particularly for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, many countries in Africa and countries emerging from conflict and disasters. In addition to delivering on past commitments, it will be critical for donors to establish a timetable for meeting official development assistance targets and enhancing development effectiveness, including through the principles and actions set out in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The impact of official development assistance can be magnified by other sources of finance, including innovative sources.

100. A universal development agenda beyond 2015 will require a robust framework for sustainable development finance including both private and public funding. International efforts are needed to create an environment conducive to business and thus channel capital flows and portfolio investments to the sustainable development agenda, to eliminate illicit financial flows, to enhance the regulation of secrecy jurisdictions and to promote asset recovery. Multilateral development banks have an important role to play in identifying novel sources of sustainable development financing.

101. At the same time, the financing framework for the post-2015 period will require the mobilization of domestic resources, including by broadening the tax base and improving tax administration, including in developing countries, and improving corporate and public governance of extractive industries in resource-rich countries. In addition, the financing framework will require commitment by the public and private scientific and research communities to develop new and transformative technologies. Harnessing science, technology and innovative methods will be central in areas ranging from information and communications technology to transportation, the environment and life-saving medicines.

102. South-South and triangular cooperation will also play a key role. This has increased significantly in recent years and has taken various forms, including infrastructure investment, technical cooperation, joint research and investment and information-sharing.

103. I welcome the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, which will propose options on a strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use. The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum and the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development also provide important opportunities for charting a way forward.

104. **Strengthen the international development cooperation framework.** In order to respond to the challenges of funding and implementing a sustainable development agenda, both national and international institutions need to be strengthened to overcome the institutional and operational separation between economic, social and

environmental responsibilities. I particularly welcome, in that regard, General Assembly resolution 67/290, in which the mandate, organizational structure and the working methods of the high-level political forum on sustainable development were defined. There is broad agreement that the forum should bring political support at the highest level to the coordination, coherence, implementation and monitoring of the commitments in a universal sustainable development agenda.

## **B. Comprehensive monitoring framework and robust accountability mechanisms**

105. Strong monitoring and accountability will be crucial for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Governments, especially parliaments, will play a central role. The monitoring and accountability framework can be strengthened through the direct engagement of citizens and responsible businesses making use of new technologies to expand coverage, to disaggregate data and to reduce costs.

106. The availability of information has improved during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Still, there is an urgent need to further improve data collection, dissemination and analysis. Better baseline data and statistics are needed, especially because the post-2015 development agenda will involve measuring a broader range of indicators, requiring new and disaggregated data to capture gaps within and between population groups. Assessing the quality of outcomes should also feature more prominently in a results-based framework. As suggested by my High-level Panel, targets will be considered to have been achieved only if they are met for all relevant income and social groups.

107. In this context, the advances in information technology over the past decade provide an opportunity for a “data revolution”, which should enable countries to strengthen existing data sources and develop new and participatory sources of information. Many developing countries will require technical and financial support to build solid statistical systems and capacity so as to take advantage of these new opportunities.

## **C. Setting goals for the agenda**

108. Experience with the Millennium Development Goals shows us that goals can be a powerful way of mobilizing common action. To be effective, they need to be limited in number, measurable, easy to communicate and adaptable to both global and local settings.

109. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Member States agreed that the sustainable development goals “should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”. The many consultations and reports suggest that a single, balanced and comprehensive set of goals, universal to all nations, which aims to eradicate all forms of poverty and integrate sustainable development in all its dimensions, should form the core of the agenda.

110. The framing of the set of goals for sustainable development will inevitably need to be broader than that of the Millennium Development Goals in order to reflect new challenges. Illustrative goals and targets have been proposed in a range

of reports, including those of the High-level Panel, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Global Compact, and in several initiatives from the research community.

111. Goals and targets should take into account cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, age and other factors leading to inequality, human rights, demographics, migration and partnerships. The new goals should embrace the emphasis on human well-being and include the use of metrics that go beyond standard income measures, such as surveys of subjective well-being and happiness, as introduced by many countries and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

#### **D. Towards the formulation and launch of the agenda**

112. The special event of the President of the General Assembly to be convened on 25 September will review current efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and provide a timely opportunity for rallying political support for their acceleration. The event will also serve as an occasion to reflect on the broad contours of the development agenda beyond 2015.

113. Member States should therefore use the special event to generate clarity and a solid momentum for the important discussions and decisions that will follow. In the outcome of the event they could issue a call for convening a United Nations summit in 2015 to adopt the new development agenda. To that end, the Assembly could request its President to hold consultations on a procedural resolution for initiating preparations for the summit, in which it could request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on modalities, format and organization for submission to the Assembly by March 2014. That report could serve as the basis for the Assembly's consultations on a comprehensive resolution on the timing, scope, format, participation and expected outcome of a summit in 2015.

114. The General Assembly could launch the final phase of the intergovernmental consultations on a post-2015 development agenda at its sixty-ninth session. Those consultations could draw on the outcomes of several intergovernmental events, including the high-level meeting on disability and development, to be held in September, the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, to be held in October, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the climate change summit in 2014 as well as the next conference on financing for development. Our goal must be to make 2015 a defining moment for people and the planet and to show what the United Nations and Member States, working together, can achieve.

### **IV. Recommendations**

115. **I call upon all Member States and the entire international community to take every step possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.** This will require political courage and enlightened leadership on the part of all countries, regardless of their level of development. But we must, as stated in the Millennium Declaration, spare no effort to deliver on our policy and financial commitments. This is our duty — our responsibility to humanity today and in the future. With political will and adequate resources, much can be accomplished before the 2015 deadline. Even then, some goals may not be met. Others, even if met, were designed

to address only part of the challenge. The post-2015 development agenda will therefore need to complete the Millennium Development Goals, scale up their success, expand their scope and address new challenges.

**116. I call upon Member States to adopt a universal post-2015 development agenda, with sustainable development at its core.** Poverty eradication, inclusive growth targeting inequality, protecting and managing the natural resource base of our planet within a rights-based framework and cognizant of the nexus between peace and development — these are the overarching objectives of sustainable development. To realize this agenda, all countries need to recognize the profound transformations required to address the emerging challenges of sustainable development. These include economic shifts to sustainable patterns of production and consumption, effective governance and a renewed global partnership and means of implementation.

**117. I call upon the international system, including the United Nations, to embrace a more coherent and effective response to support this agenda.** I welcome the leadership of Member States as they establish the high-level political forum, tasked with providing coordination and coherence at the highest political level to foster sustainable development in every country. The United Nations system will continue to reform and make itself “fit for purpose” so as to respond to the challenges of this new path to sustainable development.

**118. I encourage Member States to provide clarity on the road map to 2015.** As Member States consider the processes leading up to 2015, they could be supported by a report of the Secretary-General during the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. This would draw upon the outcomes of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and other bodies. The intergovernmental process could lead to an agreement on the vision, principles, goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as on the renewed global partnership for development.

## V. Conclusion

119. Acting upon our common challenges demands a renewed commitment to international cooperation. Multilateralism is being tested. The United Nations, as a global beacon of solidarity, must do its part to strengthen collaboration and show that it can be effective in building the just, prosperous and sustainable world that people want and have a right to expect. Defining the post-2015 development agenda is thus a daunting yet inspiring and historic task for the United Nations and its Member States.

120. In so doing we must continue to listen to and involve the peoples of the world. We have heard their calls for peace and justice, eradicating poverty, realizing rights, eliminating inequality, enhancing accountability and preserving our planet. The world's nations must unite behind a common programme to act on those aspirations. No one must be left behind. We must continue to build a future of justice and hope, a life of dignity for all.



**United Nations**

# **Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

**Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-  
4 September 2002**

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## Chapter I

### Resolutions adopted by the Summit

#### Resolution 1\*

#### Political Declaration

*The World Summit on Sustainable Development,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

1. *Adopts* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, which is annexed to the present resolution;
2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it endorse the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development as adopted by the Summit.

#### Annex

### Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development

#### From our origins to the future

1. We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 4 September 2002, reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development.
2. We commit ourselves to building a humane, equitable and caring global society, cognizant of the need for human dignity for all.
3. At the beginning of this Summit, the children of the world spoke to us in a simple yet clear voice that the future belongs to them, and accordingly challenged all of us to ensure that through our actions they will inherit a world free of the indignity and indecency occasioned by poverty, environmental degradation and patterns of unsustainable development.
4. As part of our response to these children, who represent our collective future, all of us, coming from every corner of the world, informed by different life experiences, are united and moved by a deeply felt sense that we urgently need to create a new and brighter world of hope.
5. Accordingly, we assume a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — at the local, national, regional and global levels.
6. From this continent, the cradle of humanity, we declare, through the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the present Declaration, our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children.

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\* Adopted at the 17th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2002; for the discussion, see chap. VIII.

7. Recognizing that humankind is at a crossroads, we have united in a common resolve to make a determined effort to respond positively to the need to produce a practical and visible plan to bring about poverty eradication and human development.

### **From Stockholm to Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg**

8. Thirty years ago, in Stockholm, we agreed on the urgent need to respond to the problem of environmental deterioration.<sup>1</sup> Ten years ago, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro,<sup>2</sup> we agreed that the protection of the environment and social and economic development are fundamental to sustainable development, based on the Rio Principles. To achieve such development, we adopted the global programme entitled Agenda 21<sup>3</sup> and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>3</sup> to which we reaffirm our commitment. The Rio Conference was a significant milestone that set a new agenda for sustainable development.

9. Between Rio and Johannesburg, the world's nations have met in several major conferences under the auspices of the United Nations, including the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>4</sup> as well as the Doha Ministerial Conference.<sup>5</sup> These conferences defined for the world a comprehensive vision for the future of humanity.

10. At the Johannesburg Summit, we have achieved much in bringing together a rich tapestry of peoples and views in a constructive search for a common path towards a world that respects and implements the vision of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Summit has also confirmed that significant progress has been made towards achieving a global consensus and partnership among all the people of our planet.

### **The challenges we face**

11. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

12. The deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability.

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14 and corrigendum), chap. I.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vols. I-III.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

13. The global environment continues to suffer. Loss of biodiversity continues, fish stocks continue to be depleted, desertification claims more and more fertile land, the adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating, and developing countries more vulnerable, and air, water and marine pollution continue to rob millions of a decent life.

14. Globalization has added a new dimension to these challenges. The rapid integration of markets, mobility of capital and significant increases in investment flows around the world have opened new challenges and opportunities for the pursuit of sustainable development. But the benefits and costs of globalization are unevenly distributed, with developing countries facing special difficulties in meeting this challenge.

15. We risk the entrenchment of these global disparities and unless we act in a manner that fundamentally changes their lives the poor of the world may lose confidence in their representatives and the democratic systems to which we remain committed, seeing their representatives as nothing more than sounding brass or tinkling cymbals.

### **Our commitment to sustainable development**

16. We are determined to ensure that our rich diversity, which is our collective strength, will be used for constructive partnership for change and for the achievement of the common goal of sustainable development.

17. Recognizing the importance of building human solidarity, we urge the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among the world's civilizations and peoples, irrespective of race, disabilities, religion, language, culture or tradition.

18. We welcome the focus of the Johannesburg Summit on the indivisibility of human dignity and are resolved, through decisions on targets, timetables and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity. At the same time, we will work together to help one another gain access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity-building, use modern technology to bring about development and make sure that there is technology transfer, human resource development, education and training to banish underdevelopment forever.

19. We reaffirm our pledge to place particular focus on, and give priority attention to, the fight against the worldwide conditions that pose severe threats to the sustainable development of our people, which include: chronic hunger; malnutrition; foreign occupation; armed conflict; illicit drug problems; organized crime; corruption; natural disasters; illicit arms trafficking; trafficking in persons; terrorism; intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatreds; xenophobia; and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

20. We are committed to ensuring that women's empowerment, emancipation and gender equality are integrated in all the activities encompassed within Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals<sup>6</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.

21. We recognize the reality that global society has the means and is endowed with the resources to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development confronting all humanity. Together, we will take extra steps to ensure that these available resources are used to the benefit of humanity.

22. In this regard, to contribute to the achievement of our development goals and targets, we urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts reach the internationally agreed levels of official development assistance.

23. We welcome and support the emergence of stronger regional groupings and alliances, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to promote regional cooperation, improved international cooperation and sustainable development.

24. We shall continue to pay special attention to the developmental needs of small island developing States and the least developed countries.

25. We reaffirm the vital role of the indigenous peoples in sustainable development.

26. We recognize that sustainable development requires a long-term perspective and broad-based participation in policy formulation, decision-making and implementation at all levels. As social partners, we will continue to work for stable partnerships with all major groups, respecting the independent, important roles of each of them.

27. We agree that in pursuit of its legitimate activities the private sector, including both large and small companies, has a duty to contribute to the evolution of equitable and sustainable communities and societies.

28. We also agree to provide assistance to increase income-generating employment opportunities, taking into account the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labour Organization.<sup>7</sup>

29. We agree that there is a need for private sector corporations to enforce corporate accountability, which should take place within a transparent and stable regulatory environment.

30. We undertake to strengthen and improve governance at all levels for the effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.

### **Multilateralism is the future**

31. To achieve our goals of sustainable development, we need more effective, democratic and accountable international and multilateral institutions.

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<sup>6</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>7</sup> See *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up Adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18 June 1998* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1998).

32. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as to the strengthening of multilateralism. We support the leadership role of the United Nations as the most universal and representative organization in the world, which is best placed to promote sustainable development.

33. We further commit ourselves to monitor progress at regular intervals towards the achievement of our sustainable development goals and objectives.

**Making it happen!**

34. We are in agreement that this must be an inclusive process, involving all the major groups and Governments that participated in the historic Johannesburg Summit.

35. We commit ourselves to act together, united by a common determination to save our planet, promote human development and achieve universal prosperity and peace.

36. We commit ourselves to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to expediting the achievement of the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein.

37. From the African continent, the cradle of humankind, we solemnly pledge to the peoples of the world and the generations that will surely inherit this Earth that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized.



**Resolution 2\***  
**Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

*The World Summit on Sustainable Development,*

*Having met* in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

1. *Adopts* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which is annexed to the present resolution;
2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it endorse the Plan of Implementation as adopted by the Summit.

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\* Adopted at the 17th plenary meeting, on 4 September 2002; for the discussion, see chap. IX.

## Annex

# Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

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## I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992,<sup>1</sup> provided the fundamental principles and the programme of action for achieving sustainable development. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the Rio principles,<sup>2</sup> the full implementation of Agenda 21<sup>2</sup> and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21<sup>3</sup>. We also commit ourselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>4</sup> and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

2. The present plan of implementation will further build on the achievements made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and expedite the realization of the remaining goals. To this end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.<sup>5</sup> These efforts will also promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.

3. We recognize that the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit should benefit all, particularly women, youth, children and vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the implementation should involve all relevant actors through partnerships, especially between Governments of the North and South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups, on the other, to achieve the widely shared goals of sustainable development. As reflected in the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>6</sup> such partnerships are key to pursuing sustainable development in a globalizing world.

4. Good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development. At the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for sustainable development. As a result of globalization, external factors have become critical in determining the success or failure of developing countries in their national efforts. The gap between developed

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade and full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased.

5. Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all.

6. We acknowledge the importance of ethics for sustainable development and, therefore, emphasize the need to consider ethics in the implementation of Agenda 21.

## **II. Poverty eradication**

7. Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries. Although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1 dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water;

(b) Establish a world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries pursuant to modalities to be determined by the General Assembly, while stressing the voluntary nature of the contributions and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds, and encouraging the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours;

(c) Develop national programmes for sustainable development and local and community development, where appropriate within country-owned poverty reduction strategies, to promote the empowerment of people living in poverty and their organizations. These programmes should reflect their priorities and enable them to increase access to productive resources, public services and institutions, in particular land, water, employment opportunities, credit, education and health;

(d) Promote women's equal access to and full participation in, on the basis of equality with men, decision-making at all levels, mainstreaming gender perspectives in all policies and strategies, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and improving the status, health and economic welfare of women

and girls through full and equal access to economic opportunity, land, credit, education and health-care services;

(e) Develop policies and ways and means to improve access by indigenous people and their communities to economic activities and increase their employment through, where appropriate, measures such as training, technical assistance and credit facilities. Recognize that traditional and direct dependence on renewable resources and ecosystems, including sustainable harvesting, continues to be essential to the cultural, economic and physical well-being of indigenous people and their communities;

(f) Deliver basic health services for all and reduce environmental health threats, taking into account the special needs of children and the linkages between poverty, health and environment, with provision of financial resources, technical assistance and knowledge transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(g) Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education;

(h) Provide access to agricultural resources for people living in poverty, especially women and indigenous communities, and promote, as appropriate, land tenure arrangements that recognize and protect indigenous and common property resource management systems;

(i) Build basic rural infrastructure, diversify the economy and improve transportation and access to markets, market information and credit for the rural poor to support sustainable agriculture and rural development;

(j) Transfer basic sustainable agricultural techniques and knowledge, including natural resource management, to small and medium-scale farmers, fishers and the rural poor, especially in developing countries, including through multi-stakeholder approaches and public-private partnerships aimed at increasing agriculture production and food security;

(k) Increase food availability and affordability, including through harvest and food technology and management, as well as equitable and efficient distribution systems, by promoting, for example, community-based partnerships linking urban and rural people and enterprises;

(l) Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through measures such as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, including through the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,<sup>7</sup> as one of the tools for poverty eradication;

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

(m) Increase access to sanitation to improve human health and reduce infant and child mortality, prioritizing water and sanitation in national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies where they exist.

8. The provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to:

- (a) Develop and implement efficient household sanitation systems;
- (b) Improve sanitation in public institutions, especially schools;
- (c) Promote safe hygiene practices;
- (d) Promote education and outreach focused on children, as agents of behavioural change;
- (e) Promote affordable and socially and culturally acceptable technologies and practices;
- (f) Develop innovative financing and partnership mechanisms;
- (g) Integrate sanitation into water resources management strategies.

9. Take joint actions and improve efforts to work together at all levels to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium development goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015, and as a means to generate other important services that mitigate poverty, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty. This would include actions at all levels to:

- (a) Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, taking into account national specificities and circumstances, through various means, such as enhanced rural electrification and decentralized energy systems, increased use of renewables, cleaner liquid and gaseous fuels and enhanced energy efficiency, by intensifying regional and international cooperation in support of national efforts, including through capacity-building, financial and technological assistance and innovative financing mechanisms, including at the micro- and meso- levels, recognizing the specific factors for providing access to the poor;
- (b) Improve access to modern biomass technologies and fuelwood sources and supplies and commercialize biomass operations, including the use of agricultural residues, in rural areas and where such practices are sustainable;
- (c) Promote a sustainable use of biomass and, as appropriate, other renewable energies through improvement of current patterns of use, such as management of resources, more efficient use of fuelwood and new or improved products and technologies;
- (d) Support the transition to the cleaner use of liquid and gaseous fossil fuels, where considered more environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost-effective;

(e) Develop national energy policies and regulatory frameworks that will help to create the necessary economic, social and institutional conditions in the energy sector to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development and poverty eradication in rural, peri-urban and urban areas;

(f) Enhance international and regional cooperation to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services, as an integral part of poverty reduction programmes, by facilitating the creation of enabling environments and addressing capacity-building needs, with special attention to rural and isolated areas, as appropriate;

(g) Assist and facilitate on an accelerated basis, with the financial and technical assistance of developed countries, including through public-private partnerships, the access of the poor to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services, taking into account the instrumental role of developing national policies on energy for sustainable development, bearing in mind that in developing countries sharp increases in energy services are required to improve the standards of living of their populations and that energy services have positive impacts on poverty eradication and improve standards of living.

10. Strengthen the contribution of industrial development to poverty eradication and sustainable natural resource management. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Provide assistance and mobilize resources to enhance industrial productivity and competitiveness as well as industrial development in developing countries, including the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

(b) Provide assistance to increase income-generating employment opportunities, taking into account the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labour Organization;<sup>8</sup>

(c) Promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including by means of training, education and skill enhancement, with a special focus on agro-industry as a provider of livelihoods for rural communities;

(d) Provide financial and technological support, as appropriate, to rural communities of developing countries to enable them to benefit from safe and sustainable livelihood opportunities in small-scale mining ventures;

(e) Provide support to developing countries for the development of safe low-cost technologies that provide or conserve fuel for cooking and water heating;

(f) Provide support for natural resource management for creating sustainable livelihoods for the poor.

11. By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the “Cities without slums” initiative. This would include actions at all levels to:

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<sup>8</sup> See *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up Adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 16 June 1998* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1998).

(a) Improve access to land and property, to adequate shelter and to basic services for the urban and rural poor, with special attention to female heads of household;

(b) Use low-cost and sustainable materials and appropriate technologies for the construction of adequate and secure housing for the poor, with financial and technological assistance to developing countries, taking into account their culture, climate, specific social conditions and vulnerability to natural disasters;

(c) Increase decent employment, credit and income for the urban poor, through appropriate national policies, promoting equal opportunities for women and men;

(d) Remove unnecessary regulatory and other obstacles for microenterprises and the informal sector;

(e) Support local authorities in elaborating slum upgrading programmes within the framework of urban development plans and facilitate access, particularly for the poor, to information on housing legislation.

12. Take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour that is contrary to accepted international standards.

13. Promote international cooperation to assist developing countries, upon request, in addressing child labour and its root causes, inter alia, through social and economic policies aimed at poverty conditions, while stressing that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.

### **III. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production**

14. Fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. All countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all major groups should play an active role in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns. This would include the actions at all levels set out below.

15. Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries, through mobilization,



from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries. This would require actions at all levels to:

(a) Identify specific activities, tools, policies, measures and monitoring and assessment mechanisms, including, where appropriate, life-cycle analysis and national indicators for measuring progress, bearing in mind that standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries;

(b) Adopt and implement policies and measures aimed at promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption, applying, inter alia, the polluter-pays principle described in principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(c) Develop production and consumption policies to improve the products and services provided, while reducing environmental and health impacts, using, where appropriate, science-based approaches, such as life-cycle analysis;

(d) Develop awareness-raising programmes on the importance of sustainable production and consumption patterns, particularly among youth and the relevant segments in all countries, especially in developed countries, through, inter alia, education, public and consumer information, advertising and other media, taking into account local, national and regional cultural values;

(e) Develop and adopt, where appropriate, on a voluntary basis, effective, transparent, verifiable, non-misleading and non-discriminatory consumer information tools to provide information relating to sustainable consumption and production, including human health and safety aspects. These tools should not be used as disguised trade barriers;

(f) Increase eco-efficiency, with financial support from all sources, where mutually agreed, for capacity-building, technology transfer and exchange of technology with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in cooperation with relevant international organizations.

16. Increase investment in cleaner production and eco-efficiency in all countries through, inter alia, incentives and support schemes and policies directed at establishing appropriate regulatory, financial and legal frameworks. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Establish and support cleaner production programmes and centres and more efficient production methods by providing, inter alia, incentives and capacity-building to assist enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in developing countries, in improving productivity and sustainable development;

(b) Provide incentives for investment in cleaner production and eco-efficiency in all countries, such as state-financed loans, venture capital, technical assistance and training programmes for small and medium-sized companies while avoiding trade-distorting measures inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Collect and disseminate information on cost-effective examples in cleaner production, eco-efficiency and environmental management and promote the

exchange of best practices and know-how on environmentally sound technologies between public and private institutions;

(d) Provide training programmes to small and medium-sized enterprises on the use of information and communication technologies.

17. Integrate the issue of production and consumption patterns into sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, including, where applicable, into poverty reduction strategies.

18. Enhance corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Encourage industry to improve social and environmental performance through voluntary initiatives, including environmental management systems, codes of conduct, certification and public reporting on environmental and social issues, taking into account such initiatives as the International Organization for Standardization standards and Global Reporting Initiative guidelines on sustainability reporting, bearing in mind principle 11 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(b) Encourage dialogue between enterprises and the communities in which they operate and other stakeholders;

(c) Encourage financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development considerations into their decision-making processes;

(d) Develop workplace-based partnerships and programmes, including training and education programmes.

19. Encourage relevant authorities at all levels to take sustainable development considerations into account in decision-making, including on national and local development planning, investment in infrastructure, business development and public procurement. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Provide support for the development of sustainable development strategies and programmes, including in decision-making on investment in infrastructure and business development;

(b) Continue to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the costs of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment;

(c) Promote public procurement policies that encourage development and diffusion of environmentally sound goods and services;

(d) Provide capacity-building and training to assist relevant authorities with regard to the implementation of the initiatives listed in the present paragraph;

(e) Use environmental impact assessment procedures.

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20. Call upon Governments as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to implement, taking into account national and regional specificities and circumstances, the recommendations and conclusions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development concerning

energy for sustainable development at its ninth session, including the issues and options set out below, bearing in mind that in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies according to the recommendations and conclusions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as contained in section A, paragraph 3, and section D, paragraph 30, of its decision 9/1<sup>9</sup> on energy for sustainable development;

(b) Integrate energy considerations, including energy efficiency, affordability and accessibility, into socio-economic programmes, especially into policies of major energy-consuming sectors, and into the planning, operation and maintenance of long-lived energy consuming infrastructures, such as the public sector, transport, industry, agriculture, urban land use, tourism and construction sectors;

(c) Develop and disseminate alternative energy technologies with the aim of giving a greater share of the energy mix to renewable energies, improving energy efficiency and greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

(d) Combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

(e) Diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, hydro included, and their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms as mutually agreed. With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end;

(f) Support efforts, including through provision of financial and technical assistance to developing countries, with the involvement of the private sector, to reduce flaring and venting of gas associated with crude oil production;

(g) Develop and utilize indigenous energy sources and infrastructures for various local uses and promote rural community participation, including local Agenda 21 groups, with the support of the international community, in developing and utilizing renewable energy technologies to meet their daily energy needs to find simple and local solutions;

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<sup>9</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 9 (E/2001/29), chap. I.B.*

(h) Establish domestic programmes for energy efficiency, including, as appropriate, by accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency technologies, with the necessary support of the international community;

(i) Accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

(j) Recommend that international financial institutions and other agencies' policies support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in their own efforts to establish policy and regulatory frameworks which create a level playing field between the following: renewable energy, energy efficiency, advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and centralized, distributed and decentralized energy systems;

(k) Promote increased research and development in the field of various energy technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, both nationally and through international collaboration; strengthen national and regional research and development institutions/centres on reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy for sustainable development;

(l) Promote networking between centres of excellence on energy for sustainable development, including regional networks, by linking competent centres on energy technologies for sustainable development that could support and promote efforts at capacity-building and technology transfer activities, particularly of developing countries, as well as serve as information clearing houses;

(m) Promote education to provide information for both men and women about available energy sources and technologies;

(n) Utilize financial instruments and mechanisms, in particular the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to provide financial resources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to meet their capacity needs for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy, including promoting energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

(o) Support efforts to improve the functioning, transparency and information about energy markets with respect to both supply and demand, with the aim of achieving greater stability and predictability, and to ensure consumer access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services;

(p) Policies to reduce market distortions would promote energy systems compatible with sustainable development through the use of improved market signals and by removing market distortions, including restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, with such policies taking fully into account the specific needs and

conditions of developing countries, with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development;

(q) Take action, where appropriate, to phase out subsidies in this area that inhibit sustainable development, taking fully into account the specific conditions and different levels of development of individual countries and considering their adverse effect, particularly on developing countries;

(r) Governments are encouraged to improve the functioning of national energy markets in such a way that they support sustainable development, overcome market barriers and improve accessibility, taking fully into account that such policies should be decided by each country, and that its own characteristics and capabilities and level of development should be considered, especially as reflected in national sustainable development strategies, where they exist;

(s) Strengthen national and regional energy institutions or arrangements for enhancing regional and international cooperation on energy for sustainable development, in particular to assist developing countries in their domestic efforts to provide reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services to all sections of their populations;

(t) Countries are urged to develop and implement actions within the framework of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including through public-private partnerships, taking into account the different circumstances of countries, based on lessons learned by Governments, international institutions and stakeholders, including business and industry, in the field of access to energy, including renewable energy and energy-efficiency and advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

(u) Promote cooperation between international and regional institutions and bodies dealing with different aspects of energy for sustainable development within their existing mandate, bearing in mind paragraph 46 (h) of the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, strengthening, as appropriate, regional and national activities for the promotion of education and capacity-building regarding energy for sustainable development;

(v) Strengthen and facilitate, as appropriate, regional cooperation arrangements for promoting cross-border energy trade, including the interconnection of electricity grids and oil and natural gas pipelines;

(w) Strengthen and, where appropriate, facilitate dialogue forums among regional, national and international producers and consumers of energy.

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21. Promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development, including policies and planning for land use, infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks, with a view to providing safe, affordable and efficient transportation, increasing energy efficiency, reducing pollution, congestion and adverse health effects and limiting urban sprawl, taking into account national priorities and circumstances. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Implement transport strategies for sustainable development, reflecting specific regional, national and local conditions, to improve the affordability,

efficiency and convenience of transportation as well as urban air quality and health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through the development of better vehicle technologies that are more environmentally sound, affordable and socially acceptable;

(b) Promote investment and partnerships for the development of sustainable, energy efficient multi-modal transportation systems, including public mass transportation systems and better transportation systems in rural areas, with technical and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

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22. Prevent and minimize waste and maximize reuse, recycling and use of environmentally friendly alternative materials, with the participation of government authorities and all stakeholders, in order to minimize adverse effects on the environment and improve resource efficiency, with financial, technical and other assistance for developing countries. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Develop waste management systems, with the highest priority placed on waste prevention and minimization, reuse and recycling, and environmentally sound disposal facilities, including technology to recapture the energy contained in waste, and encourage small-scale waste-recycling initiatives that support urban and rural waste management and provide income-generating opportunities, with international support for developing countries;

(b) Promote waste prevention and minimization by encouraging production of reusable consumer goods and biodegradable products and developing the infrastructure required.

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23. Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade<sup>10</sup> so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants<sup>11</sup> so that it can enter into force by 2004, and encourage and improve coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation;

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<sup>10</sup> UNEP/FAO/PIC/CONF.5, annex III.

<sup>11</sup> [www.chem.unep.ch/sc](http://www.chem.unep.ch/sc).

(b) Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety<sup>12</sup> by 2005, and urge that the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Forum, other international organizations dealing with chemical management and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;

(c) Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

(d) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data;

(e) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;<sup>13</sup>

(f) Encourage development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals, such as through national pollutant release and transfer registers;

(g) Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds.

#### **IV. Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development**

24. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activities. Managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development. In this regard, to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation as soon as possible, it is necessary to implement strategies which should include targets adopted at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels to protect ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities. This would include actions at all levels as set out below.

25. Launch a programme of actions, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium development goal on safe drinking water. In this respect, we

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<sup>12</sup> Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, third session, Forum III final report (IFCS/Forum III/23w), annex 6.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Mobilize international and domestic financial resources at all levels, transfer technology, promote best practice and support capacity-building for water and sanitation infrastructure and services development, ensuring that such infrastructure and services meet the needs of the poor and are gender-sensitive;

(b) Facilitate access to public information and participation, including by women, at all levels in support of policy and decision-making related to water resources management and project implementation;

(c) Promote priority action by Governments, with the support of all stakeholders, in water management and capacity-building at the national level and, where appropriate, at the regional level, and promote and provide new and additional financial resources and innovative technologies to implement chapter 18 of Agenda 21;

(d) Intensify water pollution prevention to reduce health hazards and protect ecosystems by introducing technologies for affordable sanitation and industrial and domestic wastewater treatment, by mitigating the effects of groundwater contamination and by establishing, at the national level, monitoring systems and effective legal frameworks;

(e) Adopt prevention and protection measures to promote sustainable water use and to address water shortages.

26. Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels to:

(a) Develop and implement national/regional strategies, plans and programmes with regard to integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management and introduce measures to improve the efficiency of water infrastructure to reduce losses and increase recycling of water;

(b) Employ the full range of policy instruments, including regulation, monitoring, voluntary measures, market and information-based tools, land-use management and cost recovery of water services, without cost recovery objectives becoming a barrier to access to safe water by poor people, and adopt an integrated water basin approach;

(c) Improve the efficient use of water resources and promote their allocation among competing uses in a way that gives priority to the satisfaction of basic human needs and balances the requirement of preserving or restoring ecosystems and their functions, in particular in fragile environments, with human domestic, industrial and agriculture needs, including safeguarding drinking water quality;

(d) Develop programmes for mitigating the effects of extreme water-related events;

(e) Support the diffusion of technology and capacity-building for non-conventional water resources and conservation technologies, to developing countries and regions facing water scarcity conditions or subject to drought and desertification, through technical and financial support and capacity-building;



(f) Support, where appropriate, efforts and programmes for energy-efficient, sustainable and cost-effective desalination of seawater, water recycling and water harvesting from coastal fogs in developing countries, through such measures as technological, technical and financial assistance and other modalities;

(g) Facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships and other forms of partnership that give priority to the needs of the poor, within stable and transparent national regulatory frameworks provided by Governments, while respecting local conditions, involving all concerned stakeholders, and monitoring the performance and improving accountability of public institutions and private companies.

27. Support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to monitor and assess the quantity and quality of water resources, including through the establishment and/or further development of national monitoring networks and water resources databases and the development of relevant national indicators.

28. Improve water resource management and scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research, and for this purpose encourage and promote knowledge-sharing and provide capacity-building and the transfer of technology, as mutually agreed, including remote-sensing and satellite technologies, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

29. Promote effective coordination among the various international and intergovernmental bodies and processes working on water-related issues, both within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and international financial institutions, drawing on the contributions of other international institutions and civil society to inform intergovernmental decision-making; closer coordination should also be promoted to elaborate and support proposals and undertake activities related to the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 and beyond.

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30. Oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of many national economies, particularly in developing countries. Ensuring the sustainable development of the oceans requires effective coordination and cooperation, including at the global and regional levels, between relevant bodies, and actions at all levels to:

(a) Invite States to ratify or accede to and implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982,<sup>14</sup> which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities;

(b) Promote the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, which provides the programme of action for achieving the sustainable development of oceans, coastal areas and seas through its programme areas of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones;

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<sup>14</sup> *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

marine environmental protection; sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources; addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change; strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination; and sustainable development of small islands;

(c) Establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;

(d) Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach, noting the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem<sup>15</sup> and decision V/6 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;<sup>16</sup>

(e) Promote integrated, multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management at the national level and encourage and assist coastal States in developing ocean policies and mechanisms on integrated coastal management;

(f) Strengthen regional cooperation and coordination between the relevant regional organizations and programmes, the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, regional fisheries management organizations and other regional science, health and development organizations;

(g) Assist developing countries in coordinating policies and programmes at the regional and subregional levels aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources and implement integrated coastal area management plans, including through the promotion of sustainable coastal and small-scale fishing activities and, where appropriate, the development of related infrastructure;

(h) Take note of the work of the open-ended informal consultative process established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs and the upcoming review of its effectiveness and utility to be held at its fifty-seventh session under the terms of the above-mentioned resolution.

31. To achieve sustainable fisheries, the following actions are required at all levels:

(a) Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015;

(b) Ratify or accede to and effectively implement the relevant United Nations and, where appropriate, associated regional fisheries agreements or arrangements, noting in particular the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks<sup>17</sup> and the 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance

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<sup>15</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations document C200/INF/25, appendix I.

<sup>16</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23, annex III.

<sup>17</sup> See *International Fisheries Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. I; see also A/CONF.164/37.

with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas;<sup>18</sup>

(c) Implement the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,<sup>19</sup> taking note of the special requirements of developing countries as noted in its article 5, and the relevant international plans of action and technical guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(d) Urgently develop and implement national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action, to put into effect the international plans of action of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in particular the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity<sup>20</sup> by 2005 and the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing<sup>21</sup> by 2004. Establish effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by flag States, to further the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

(e) Encourage relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to give due consideration to the rights, duties and interests of coastal States and the special requirements of developing States when addressing the issue of the allocation of share of fishery resources for straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, mindful of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, on the high seas and within exclusive economic zones;

(f) Eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to over-capacity, while completing the efforts undertaken at the World Trade Organization to clarify and improve its disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries;

(g) Strengthen donor coordination and partnerships between international financial institutions, bilateral agencies and other relevant stakeholders to enable developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to develop their national, regional and subregional capacities for infrastructure and integrated management and the sustainable use of fisheries;

(h) Support the sustainable development of aquaculture, including small-scale aquaculture, given its growing importance for food security and economic development.

32. In accordance with chapter 17 of Agenda 21, promote the conservation and management of the oceans through actions at all levels, giving due regard to the relevant international instruments to:

(a) Maintain the productivity and biodiversity of important and vulnerable marine and coastal areas, including in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction;

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., sect. III.

<sup>20</sup> Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1999.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 2001.

(b) Implement the work programme arising from the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>22</sup> including through the urgent mobilization of financial resources and technological assistance and the development of human and institutional capacity, particularly in developing countries;

(c) Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012 and time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds and periods, proper coastal land use and watershed planning and the integration of marine and coastal areas management into key sectors;

(d) Develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity, including in coral reefs and wetlands;

(e) Implement the Ramsar Convention,<sup>23</sup> including its joint work programme with the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>24</sup> and the programme of action called for by the International Coral Reef Initiative to strengthen joint management plans and international networking for wetland ecosystems in coastal zones, including coral reefs, mangroves, seaweed beds and tidal mud flats.

33. Advance implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities<sup>25</sup> and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,<sup>26</sup> with particular emphasis during the period from 2002 to 2006 on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and nutrients, by actions at all levels to:

(a) Facilitate partnerships, scientific research and diffusion of technical knowledge; mobilize domestic, regional and international resources; and promote human and institutional capacity-building, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of developing countries in the development of their national and regional programmes and mechanisms to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and to manage the risks and impacts of ocean pollution;

(c) Elaborate regional programmes of action and improve the links with strategic plans for the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources, noting in particular areas that are subject to accelerated environmental changes and development pressures;

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<sup>22</sup> See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/10.

<sup>23</sup> *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583).

<sup>24</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

<sup>25</sup> A/51/116, annex II.

<sup>26</sup> See E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15.

(d) Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next Global Programme of Action conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.

34. Enhance maritime safety and protection of the marine environment from pollution by actions at all levels to:

(a) Invite States to ratify or accede to and implement the conventions and protocols and other relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization relating to the enhancement of maritime safety and protection of the marine environment from marine pollution and environmental damage caused by ships, including the use of toxic anti-fouling paints, and urge the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to consider stronger mechanisms to secure the implementation of IMO instruments by flag States;

(b) Accelerate the development of measures to address invasive alien species in ballast water. Urge the International Maritime Organization to finalize its draft International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.

35. Governments, taking into account their national circumstances, are encouraged, recalling paragraph 8 of resolution GC (44)/RES/17 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and taking into account the very serious potential for environment and human health impacts of radioactive wastes, to make efforts to examine and further improve measures and internationally agreed regulations regarding safety, while stressing the importance of having effective liability mechanisms in place, relevant to international maritime transportation and other transboundary movement of radioactive material, radioactive waste and spent fuel, including, inter alia, arrangements for prior notification and consultations done in accordance with relevant international instruments.

36. Improve the scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems as a fundamental basis for sound decision-making, through actions at all levels to:

(a) Increase scientific and technical collaboration, including integrated assessment at the global and regional levels, including the appropriate transfer of marine science and marine technologies and techniques for the conservation and management of living and non-living marine resources and expanding ocean-observing capabilities for the timely prediction and assessment of the state of marine environment;

(b) Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments;

(c) Build capacity in marine science, information and management, through, inter alia, promoting the use of environmental impact assessments and environmental evaluation and reporting techniques, for projects or activities that are potentially harmful to the coastal and marine environments and their living and non-living resources;

(d) Strengthen the ability of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant international and regional and subregional organizations to build national and local capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of oceans and their resources.

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37. An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, is an essential element of a safer world in the twenty-first century. Actions are required at all levels to:

(a) Strengthen the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and encourage the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to its Trust Fund;

(b) Support the establishment of effective regional, subregional and national strategies and scientific and technical institutional support for disaster management;

(c) Strengthen the institutional capacities of countries and promote international joint observation and research, through improved surface-based monitoring and increased use of satellite data, dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge, and the provision of assistance to vulnerable countries;

(d) Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries by, inter alia, promoting wetland and watershed protection and restoration, improved land-use planning, improving and applying more widely techniques and methodologies for assessing the potential adverse effects of climate change on wetlands and, as appropriate, assisting countries that are particularly vulnerable to those effects;

(e) Improve techniques and methodologies for assessing the effects of climate change, and encourage the continuing assessment of those adverse effects by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(f) Encourage the dissemination and use of traditional and indigenous knowledge to mitigate the impact of disasters and promote community-based disaster management planning by local authorities, including through training activities and raising public awareness;

(g) Support the ongoing voluntary contribution of, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and other partners in the management of natural disasters according to agreed, relevant guidelines;

(h) Develop and strengthen early warning systems and information networks in disaster management, consistent with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(i) Develop and strengthen capacity at all levels to collect and disseminate scientific and technical information, including the improvement of early warning systems for predicting extreme weather events, especially El Niño/La Niña, through the provision of assistance to institutions devoted to addressing such events, including the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño phenomenon;

(j) Promote cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from major technological and other disasters with an adverse impact on the environment in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations.

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38. Change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. We remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change and recognize that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain at the centre of global attention. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>27</sup> is the key instrument for addressing climate change, a global concern, and we reaffirm our commitment to achieving its ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>28</sup> preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner. Actions at all levels are required to:

- (a) Meet all the commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (b) Work cooperatively towards achieving the objectives of the Convention;
- (c) Provide technical and financial assistance and capacity-building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with commitments under the Convention, including the Marrakesh Accords;<sup>29</sup>
- (d) Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the exchange of scientific data and information especially in developing countries;
- (e) Develop and transfer technological solutions;
- (f) Develop and disseminate innovative technologies in regard to key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private sector involvement, market-oriented approaches, and supportive public policies and international cooperation;

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<sup>27</sup> A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

<sup>28</sup> FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

<sup>29</sup> FCCC/CP/2001/13 and Add.1-4.

(g) Promote the systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans by improving monitoring stations, increasing the use of satellites and appropriate integration of these observations to produce high-quality data that could be disseminated for the use of all countries, in particular developing countries;

(h) Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans, including, as appropriate, strategies for integrated global observations, inter alia, with the cooperation of relevant international organizations, especially the specialized agencies, in cooperation with the Convention;

(i) Support initiatives to assess the consequences of climate change, such as the Arctic Council initiative, including the environmental, economic and social impacts on local and indigenous communities.

39. Enhance cooperation at the international, regional and national levels to reduce air pollution, including transboundary air pollution, acid deposition and ozone depletion, bearing in mind the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle that, in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities, with actions at all levels to:

(a) Strengthen capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to measure, reduce and assess the impacts of air pollution, including health impacts, and provide financial and technical support for these activities;

(b) Facilitate implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer by ensuring adequate replenishment of its fund by 2003/2005;

(c) Further support the effective regime for the protection of the ozone layer established in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol, including its compliance mechanism;

(d) Improve access by developing countries to affordable, accessible, cost-effective, safe and environmentally sound alternatives to ozone-depleting substances by 2010, and assist them in complying with the phase-out schedule under the Montreal Protocol, bearing in mind that ozone depletion and climate change are scientifically and technically interrelated;

(e) Take measures to address illegal traffic in ozone-depleting substances.

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40. Agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries. Enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security is imperative. Sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Achieve the Millennium Declaration target to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger and realize the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their



families, including food, including by promoting food security and fighting hunger in combination with measures which address poverty, consistent with the outcome of the World Food Summit and, for States Parties, with their obligations under article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;<sup>30</sup>

(b) Develop and implement integrated land management and water-use plans that are based on sustainable use of renewable resources and on integrated assessments of socio-economic and environmental potentials and strengthen the capacity of Governments, local authorities and communities to monitor and manage the quantity and quality of land and water resources;

(c) Increase understanding of the sustainable use, protection and management of water resources to advance long-term sustainability of freshwater, coastal and marine environments;

(d) Promote programmes to enhance in a sustainable manner the productivity of land and the efficient use of water resources in agriculture, forestry, wetlands, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, especially through indigenous and local community-based approaches;

(e) Support the efforts of developing countries to protect oases from silt, land degradation and increasing salinity by providing appropriate technical and financial assistance;

(f) Enhance the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels relating to sustainable agriculture and food security;

(g) Integrate existing information systems on land-use practices by strengthening national research and extension services and farmer organizations to trigger farmer-to-farmer exchange on good practices, such as those related to environmentally sound, low-cost technologies, with the assistance of relevant international organizations;

(h) Enact, as appropriate, measures that protect indigenous resource management systems and support the contribution of all appropriate stakeholders, men and women alike, in rural planning and development;

(i) Adopt policies and implement laws that guarantee well defined and enforceable land and water use rights and promote legal security of tenure, recognizing the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land access and tenure, and provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition that are undertaking land tenure reform in order to enhance sustainable livelihoods;

(j) Reverse the declining trend in public sector finance for sustainable agriculture, provide appropriate technical and financial assistance, and promote private sector investment and support efforts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen agricultural research and natural resource management capacity and dissemination of research results to the farming communities;

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<sup>30</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

(k) Employ market-based incentives for agricultural enterprises and farmers to monitor and manage water use and quality, inter alia, by applying such methods as small-scale irrigation and wastewater recycling and reuse;

(l) Enhance access to existing markets and develop new markets for value-added agricultural products;

(m) Increase brown-field redevelopment in developed countries and countries with economies in transition, with appropriate technical assistance where contamination is a serious problem;

(n) Enhance international cooperation to combat the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants, taking into account their negative social, economic and environmental impacts;

(o) Promote programmes for the environmentally sound, effective and efficient use of soil fertility improvement practices and agricultural pest control;

(p) Strengthen and improve coordination of existing initiatives to enhance sustainable agricultural production and food security;

(q) Invite countries that have not done so to ratify the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;<sup>31</sup>

(r) Promote the conservation, and sustainable use and management of traditional and indigenous agricultural systems and strengthen indigenous models of agricultural production.

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41. Strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,<sup>7</sup> to address causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources, transfer of technologies and capacity-building at all levels;

(b) Formulate national action programmes to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Convention and its related projects, with the support of the international community, including through decentralized projects at the local level;

(c) Encourage the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification to continue exploring and enhancing synergies, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the elaboration and implementation of plans and strategies under the respective Conventions;

(d) Integrate measures to prevent and combat desertification as well as to mitigate the effects of drought through relevant policies and programmes, such as land, water and forest management, agriculture, rural development, early warning systems, environment, energy, natural resources, health and education, and poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies;

<sup>31</sup> *Report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001 (C2001/REP), appendix D.*

(e) Provide affordable local access to information to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification and drought;

(f) Call on the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to take action on the recommendations of the GEF Council concerning the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area of GEF as a means of GEF support for the successful implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification; and consequently, consider making GEF a financial mechanism of the Convention, taking into account the prerogatives and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of GEF and the Global Mechanism of the Convention in providing and mobilizing resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes;

(g) Improve the sustainability of grassland resources through strengthening management and law enforcement and providing financial and technical support by the international community to developing countries.

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42. Mountain ecosystems support particular livelihoods and include significant watershed resources, biological diversity and unique flora and fauna. Many are particularly fragile and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and need specific protection. Actions at all levels are required to:

(a) Develop and promote programmes, policies and approaches that integrate environmental, economic and social components of sustainable mountain development and strengthen international cooperation for its positive impacts on poverty eradication programmes, especially in developing countries;

(b) Implement programmes to address, where appropriate, deforestation, erosion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, disruption of water flows and retreat of glaciers;

(c) Develop and implement, where appropriate, gender-sensitive policies and programmes, including public and private investments that help eliminate inequities facing mountain communities;

(d) Implement programmes to promote diversification and traditional mountain economies, sustainable livelihoods and small-scale production systems, including specific training programmes and better access to national and international markets, communications and transport planning, taking into account the particular sensitivity of mountains;

(e) Promote full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and integrate indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

(f) Mobilize national and international support for applied research and capacity-building, provide financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and address the poverty among people living in mountains through concrete plans, projects and programmes, with sufficient support from all stakeholders, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Mountains, 2002.

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43. Promote sustainable tourism development, including non-consumptive and eco-tourism, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Eco-tourism 2002, the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage in 2002, the World Eco-tourism Summit 2002 and its Quebec Declaration, and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism as adopted by the World Tourism Organization in order to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultural and environmental integrity of the host communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages. Promote sustainable tourism development and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Enhance international cooperation, foreign direct investment and partnerships with both private and public sectors, at all levels;

(b) Develop programmes, including education and training programmes, that encourage people to participate in eco-tourism, enable indigenous and local communities to develop and benefit from eco-tourism, and enhance stakeholder cooperation in tourism development and heritage preservation, in order to improve the protection of the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage;

(c) Provide technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support sustainable tourism business development and investment and tourism awareness programmes, to improve domestic tourism, and to stimulate entrepreneurial development;

(d) Assist host communities in managing visits to their tourism attractions for their maximum benefit, while ensuring the least negative impacts on and risks for their traditions, culture and environment, with the support of the World Tourism Organization and other relevant organizations;

(e) Promote the diversification of economic activities, including through the facilitation of access to markets and commercial information, and participation of emerging local enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.

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44. Biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people. However, biodiversity is currently being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities; this trend can only be reversed if the local people benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in particular in countries of origin of genetic resources, in accordance with article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention is the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources. A more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, and includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Integrate the objectives of the Convention into global, regional and national sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes and policies, in particular in the

programmes and policies of the economic sectors of countries and international financial institutions;

(b) Promote the ongoing work under the Convention on the sustainable use on biological diversity, including on sustainable tourism, as a cross-cutting issue relevant to different ecosystems, sectors and thematic areas;

(c) Encourage effective synergies between the Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements, inter alia, through the development of joint plans and programmes, with due regard to their respective mandates, regarding common responsibilities and concerns;

(d) Implement the Convention and its provisions, including active follow-up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication, including initiatives which promote community-based sustainable use of biological diversity;

(e) Promote the wide implementation and further development of the ecosystem approach, as being elaborated in the ongoing work of the Convention;

(f) Promote concrete international support and partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including in ecosystems, at World Heritage sites and for the protection of endangered species, in particular through the appropriate channelling of financial resources and technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(g) To effectively conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, promote and support initiatives for hot spot areas and other areas essential for biodiversity and promote the development of national and regional ecological networks and corridors;

(h) Provide financial and technical support to developing countries, including capacity-building, in order to enhance indigenous and community-based biodiversity conservation efforts;

(i) Strengthen national, regional and international efforts to control invasive alien species, which are one of the main causes of biodiversity loss, and encourage the development of effective work programme on invasive alien species at all levels;

(j) Subject to national legislation, recognize the rights of local and indigenous communities who are holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, develop and implement benefit-sharing mechanisms on mutually agreed terms for the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

(k) Encourage and enable all stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and, in particular, recognize the specific role of youth, women and indigenous and local communities in conserving and using biodiversity in a sustainable way;

(l) Promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision and policy-making concerning the use of their traditional knowledge;

(m) Encourage technical and financial support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to develop and implement, as appropriate, inter alia, national sui generis systems and traditional systems according to national priorities and legislation, with a view to conserving and the sustainable use of biodiversity;

(n) Promote the wide implementation of and continued work on the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising out of their Utilization, as an input to assist the Parties when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing as well as contract and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing;

(o) Negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(p) Encourage successful conclusion of existing processes under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and in the ad hoc open-ended working group on article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention;

(q) Promote practicable measures for access to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources, in accordance with articles 15 and 19 of the Convention, including through enhanced scientific and technical cooperation on biotechnology and biosafety, including the exchange of experts, training human resources and developing research-oriented institutional capacities;

(r) With a view to enhancing synergy and mutual supportiveness, taking into account the decisions under the relevant agreements, promote the discussions, without prejudging their outcome, with regard to the relationships between the Convention and agreements related to international trade and intellectual property rights, as outlined in the Doha Ministerial Declaration;<sup>32</sup>

(s) Promote the implementation of the programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative;

(t) Invite all States that have not already done so to ratify the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention<sup>33</sup> and other biodiversity-related agreements, and invite those that have done so to promote their effective implementation at the national, regional and international levels and to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition technically and financially in this regard.

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45. Forests and trees cover nearly one third of the Earth's surface. Sustainable forest management of both natural and planted forests and for timber and non-timber products is essential to achieving sustainable development as well as a

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<sup>32</sup> See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

<sup>33</sup> [Http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp](http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp).

critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation, halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation and improve food security and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy; in addition, it highlights the multiple benefits of both natural and planted forests and trees and contributes to the well-being of the planet and humanity. The achievement of sustainable forest management, nationally and globally, including through partnerships among interested Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, is an essential goal of sustainable development. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Enhance political commitment to achieve sustainable forest management by endorsing it as a priority on the international political agenda, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors through integrated approaches;

(b) Support the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels, thus contributing, inter alia, to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity;

(c) Take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, including in forest biological resources, with the support of the international community, and provide human and institutional capacity-building related to the enforcement of national legislation in those areas;

(d) Take immediate action at the national and international levels to promote and facilitate the means to achieve sustainable timber harvesting and to facilitate the provision of financial resources and the transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies, and thereby address unsustainable timber-harvesting practices;

(e) Develop and implement initiatives to address the needs of those parts of the world that currently suffer from poverty and the highest rates of deforestation and where international cooperation would be welcomed by affected Governments;

(f) Create and strengthen partnerships and international cooperation to facilitate the provision of increased financial resources, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, trade, capacity-building, forest law enforcement and governance at all levels and integrated land and resource management to implement sustainable forest management, including the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

(g) Accelerate implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests by countries and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and intensify efforts on reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005;

(h) Recognize and support indigenous and community-based forest management systems to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable forest management;

(i) Implement the expanded action-oriented work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on all types of forest biological diversity, in close cooperation with the Forum, Partnership members and other forest-related processes and conventions, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

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46. Mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of many countries. Minerals are essential for modern living. Enhancing the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including workers' health and safety, and use a range of partnerships, furthering existing activities at the national and international levels among interested Governments, intergovernmental organizations, mining companies and workers and other stakeholders to promote transparency and accountability for sustainable mining and minerals development;

(b) Enhance the participation of stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and women, to play an active role in minerals, metals and mining development throughout the life cycles of mining operations, including after closure for rehabilitation purposes, in accordance with national regulations and taking into account significant transboundary impacts;

(c) Foster sustainable mining practices through the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the mining and processing of minerals, including small-scale mining, and, where possible and appropriate, improve value-added processing, upgrade scientific and technological information and reclaim and rehabilitate degraded sites.

## **V. Sustainable development in a globalizing world**

47. Globalization offers opportunities and challenges for sustainable development. We recognize that globalization and interdependence are offering new opportunities for trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, development and the improvement of living standards around the world. At the same time, there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. The developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to those challenges and opportunities. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable, and there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to help them to respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities. This will require urgent action at all levels to:

(a) Continue to promote open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems that benefit all countries in the pursuit of sustainable development. Support the successful completion of the



work programme contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Welcome the decision contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the work programme of the Declaration, including through enhanced market access for products of interest to developing countries;

(b) Encourage ongoing efforts by international financial and trade institutions to ensure that decision-making processes and institutional structures are open and transparent;

(c) Enhance the capacities of developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to benefit from liberalized trade opportunities through international cooperation and measures aimed at improving productivity, commodity diversification and competitiveness, community-based entrepreneurial capacity and transportation and communication infrastructure development;

(d) Support the International Labour Organization and encourage its ongoing work on the social dimension of globalization, as stated in paragraph 64 of the Monterrey Consensus;

(e) Enhance the delivery of coordinated, effective and targeted trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, including taking advantage of existing and future market access opportunities, and examining the relationship between trade, environment and development.

48. Implement the outcomes of the Doha Ministerial Conference by the members of the World Trade Organization, further strengthen trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building and ensure the meaningful, effective and full participation of developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations by placing their needs and interests at the heart of the work programme of the World Trade Organization.

49. Actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability, based on the Rio principles, including through the full development and effective implementation of intergovernmental agreements and measures, international initiatives and public-private partnerships and appropriate national regulations, and support continuous improvement in corporate practices in all countries.

50. Strengthen the capacities of developing countries to encourage public/private initiatives that enhance the ease of access, accuracy, timeliness and coverage of information on countries and financial markets. Multilateral and regional financial institutions could provide further assistance for these purposes.

51. Strengthen regional trade and cooperation agreements, consistent with the multilateral trading system, among developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as among developing countries, with the support of international finance institutions and regional development banks, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

52. Assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in narrowing the digital divide, creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the provision of financial and

technical support and, in this context, support the World Summit on the Information Society.

## **VI. Health and sustainable development**

53. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, and that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life, in harmony with nature. The goals of sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating diseases, while obtaining health gains for the whole population requires poverty eradication. There is an urgent need to address the causes of ill health, including environmental causes, and their impact on development, with particular emphasis on women and children, as well as vulnerable groups of society, such as people with disabilities, elderly persons and indigenous people.

54. Strengthen the capacity of health-care systems to deliver basic health services to all in an efficient, accessible and affordable manner aimed at preventing, controlling and treating diseases, and to reduce environmental health threats, in conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms and consistent with national laws and cultural and religious values, and taking into account the reports of relevant United Nations conferences and summits and of special sessions of the General Assembly. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Integrate the health concerns, including those of the most vulnerable populations, into strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

(b) Promote equitable and improved access to affordable and efficient health-care services, including prevention, at all levels of the health system, essential and safe drugs at affordable prices, immunization services and safe vaccines and medical technology;

(c) Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Health for All Strategy, including health information systems and integrated databases on development hazards;

(d) Improve the development and management of human resources in health-care services;

(e) Promote and develop partnerships to enhance health education with the objective of achieving improved health literacy on a global basis by 2010, with the involvement of United Nations agencies, as appropriate;

(f) Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce, by the year 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000, and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible, with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of disproportionate and preventable mortality among girl infants and children;

(g) Target research efforts and apply research results to priority public health issues, in particular those affecting susceptible and vulnerable populations, through the development of new vaccines, reducing exposures to health risks, building on

equal access to health-care services, education, training and medical treatment and technology and addressing the secondary effects of poor health;

(h) Promote the preservation, development and use of effective traditional medicine knowledge and practices, where appropriate, in combination with modern medicine, recognizing indigenous and local communities as custodians of traditional knowledge and practices, while promoting effective protection of traditional knowledge, as appropriate, consistent with international law;

(i) Ensure equal access of women to health-care services, giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care;

(j) Address effectively, for all individuals of appropriate age, the promotion of healthy living, including their reproductive and sexual health, consistent with the commitments and outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and their respective reviews and reports;

(k) Launch international capacity-building initiatives, as appropriate, that assess health and environment linkages and use the knowledge gained to create more effective national and regional policy responses to environmental threats to human health;

(l) Transfer and disseminate, on mutually agreed terms, including through public-private multisector partnerships, with international financial support, technologies for safe water, sanitation and waste management for rural and urban areas in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking into account country-specific conditions and gender equality, including specific technology needs of women;

(m) Strengthen and promote programmes of the International Labour Organization and World Health Organization to reduce occupational deaths, injuries and illnesses, and link occupational health with public health promotion as a means of promoting public health and education;

(n) Improve availability and access for all to sufficient, safe, culturally acceptable and nutritionally adequate food, increase consumer health protection, address issues of micronutrient deficiency and implement existing internationally agreed commitments and relevant standards and guidelines;

(o) Develop or strengthen, where applicable, preventive, promotive and curative programmes to address non-communicable diseases and conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, injuries, violence and mental health disorders and associated risk factors, including alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity.

55. Implement, within the agreed time frames, all commitments agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>34</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, emphasizing in particular the reduction of HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15 to 24 by 25 per cent in the most

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<sup>34</sup> General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

affected countries by 2005, and globally by 2010, as well as combat malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases by, inter alia:

(a) Implementing national preventive and treatment strategies, regional and international cooperation measures and the development of international initiatives to provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS;

(b) Fulfilling commitments for the provision of sufficient resources to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, while promoting access to the Fund by countries most in need;

(c) Protecting the health of workers and promoting occupational safety, by, inter alia, taking into account, as appropriate, the voluntary Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work of the International Labour Organization, to improve conditions of the workplace;

(d) Mobilizing adequate public, and encouraging private, financial resources for research and development on diseases of the poor, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, directed at biomedical and health research, as well as new vaccine and drug development.

56. Reduce respiratory diseases and other health impacts resulting from air pollution, with particular attention to women and children, by:

(a) Strengthening regional and national programmes, including through public-private partnerships, with technical and financial assistance to developing countries;

(b) Supporting the phasing out of lead in gasoline;

(c) Strengthening and supporting efforts for the reduction of emissions through the use of cleaner fuels and modern pollution control techniques;

(d) Assisting developing countries in providing affordable energy to rural communities, particularly to reduce dependence on traditional fuel sources for cooking and heating, which affect the health of women and children.

57. Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.

## VII. Sustainable development of small island developing States

58. Small island developing States are a special case both for environment and development. Although they continue to take the lead in the path towards sustainable development in their countries, they are increasingly constrained by the interplay of adverse factors clearly underlined in Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>35</sup> and the decisions adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly. This would include actions at all levels to:

<sup>35</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

(a) Accelerate national and regional implementation of the Programme of Action, with adequate financial resources, including through Global Environment Facility focal areas, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and assistance for capacity-building from the international community;

(b) Implement further sustainable fisheries management and improve financial returns from fisheries by supporting and strengthening relevant regional fisheries management organizations, as appropriate, such as the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and such agreements as the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

(c) Assist small island developing States, including through the elaboration of specific initiatives, in delimiting and managing in a sustainable manner their coastal areas and exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf, including, where appropriate, the continental shelf areas beyond 200 miles from coastal baselines, as well as relevant regional management initiatives within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(d) Provide support, including for capacity-building, for the development and further implementation of:

(i) Small island developing States-specific components within programmes of work on marine and coastal biological diversity;

(ii) Freshwater programmes for small island developing States, including through the Global Environment Facility focal areas;

(e) Effectively reduce, prevent and control waste and pollution and their health-related impacts by undertaking initiatives by 2004 aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States;

(f) Work to ensure that, in the ongoing negotiations and elaboration of the World Trade Organization work programme on trade in small economies, due account is taken of small island developing States, which have severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy, within the context of the Doha development agenda;

(g) Develop community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004 and build the capacities necessary to diversify tourism products, while protecting culture and traditions and effectively conserving and managing natural resources;

(h) Extend assistance to small island developing States in support of local communities and appropriate national and regional organizations of small island developing States for comprehensive hazard and risk management, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and help relieve the consequences of disasters, extreme weather events and other emergencies;

(i) Support the finalization and subsequent early operationalization, on agreed terms, of economic, social and environmental vulnerability indices and related indicators as tools for the achievement of the sustainable development of the small island developing States;

(j) Assist small island developing States in mobilizing adequate resources and partnerships for their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate variability, consistent with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where applicable;

(k) Support efforts by small island developing States to build capacities and institutional arrangements to implement intellectual property regimes.

59. Support the availability of adequate, affordable and environmentally sound energy services for the sustainable development of small island developing States by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts on energy supply and services, by 2004, including through the United Nations system and partnership initiatives;

(b) Developing and promoting efficient use of sources of energy, including indigenous sources and renewable energy, and building the capacities of small island developing States for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in the area of energy management.

60. Provide support to small island developing States to develop capacity and strengthen:

(a) Health-care services for promoting equitable access to health care;

(b) Health systems for making available necessary drugs and technology in a sustainable and affordable manner to fight and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, malaria and dengue fever;

(c) Efforts to reduce and manage waste and pollution and building capacity for maintaining and managing systems to deliver water and sanitation services, in both rural and urban areas;

(d) Efforts to implement initiatives aimed at poverty eradication, which have been outlined in section II of the present document.

61. Undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004, in accordance with the provisions set forth in General Assembly resolution S-22/2, and in this context requests the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to consider convening an international meeting for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

### **VIII. Sustainable development for Africa**

62. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, sustainable development has remained elusive for many African countries. Poverty remains a major challenge and most countries on the continent have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, further exacerbating the continent's marginalization. Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development have been hindered by conflicts, insufficient investment, limited market access opportunities and supply side constraints, unsustainable debt burdens, historically declining levels of official development assistance and the impact of HIV/AIDS. The World Summit

on Sustainable Development should reinvigorate the commitment of the international community to address these special challenges and give effect to a new vision based on concrete actions for the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a commitment by African leaders to the people of Africa. It recognizes that partnerships among African countries themselves and between them and with the international community are key elements of a shared and common vision to eradicate poverty, and furthermore it aims to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, while participating actively in the world economy and body politic. It provides a framework for sustainable development on the continent to be shared by all Africa's people. The international community welcomes NEPAD and pledges its support to the implementation of this vision, including through utilization of the benefits of South-South cooperation supported, inter alia, by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It also pledges support for other existing development frameworks that are owned and driven nationally by African countries and that embody poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers. Achieving sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Create an enabling environment at the regional, subregional, national and local levels in order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development and support African efforts for peace, stability and security, the resolution and prevention of conflicts, democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and gender equality;

(b) Support the implementation of the vision of NEPAD and other established regional and subregional efforts, including through financing, technical cooperation and institutional cooperation and human and institutional capacity-building at the regional, subregional and national levels, consistent with national policies, programmes and nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and sustainable development, such as, where applicable, poverty reduction strategy papers;

(c) Promote technology development, transfer and diffusion to Africa and further develop technology and knowledge available in African centres of excellence;

(d) Support African countries in developing effective science and technology institutions and research activities capable of developing and adapting to world class technologies;

(e) Support the development of national programmes and strategies to promote education within the context of nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and strengthen research institutions in education in order to increase the capacity to fully support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals related to education, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration on ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education relevant to national needs;

(f) Enhance the industrial productivity, diversity and competitiveness of African countries through a combination of financial and technological support for

the development of key infrastructure, access to technology, networking of research centres, adding value to export products, skills development and enhancing market access in support of sustainable development;

(g) Enhance the contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to the sustainable development of Africa by supporting the development of effective and transparent regulatory and management frameworks and value addition, broad-based participation, social and environmental responsibility and increased market access in order to create an attractive and conducive environment for investment;

(h) Provide financial and technical support to strengthen the capacity of African countries to undertake environmental legislative policy and institutional reform for sustainable development and to undertake environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, to negotiate and implement multilateral environment agreements;

(i) Develop projects, programmes and partnerships with relevant stakeholders and mobilize resources for the effective implementation of the outcome of the African Process for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment;

(j) Deal effectively with energy problems in Africa, including through initiatives to:

(i) Establish and promote programmes, partnerships and initiatives to support Africa's efforts to implement NEPAD objectives on energy, which seek to secure access for at least 35 per cent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas;

(ii) Provide support to implement other initiatives on energy, including the promotion of cleaner and more efficient use of natural gas and increased use of renewable energy, and to improve energy efficiency and access to advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas;

(k) Assist African countries in mobilizing adequate resources for their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change, extreme weather events, sea level rise and climate variability, and assist in developing national climate change strategies and mitigation programmes, and continue to take actions to mitigate the adverse effects on climate change in Africa, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(l) Support African efforts to develop affordable transport systems and infrastructure that promote sustainable development and connectivity in Africa;

(m) Further to paragraph 42 above, address the poverty affecting mountain communities in Africa;

(n) Provide financial and technical support for afforestation and reforestation in Africa and to build capacity for sustainable forest management, including combating deforestation and measures to improve the policy and legal framework of the forest sector.

63. Provide financial and technical support for Africa's efforts to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification at the national level and integrate indigenous



knowledge systems into land and natural resources management practices, as appropriate, and improve extension services to rural communities and promote better land and watershed management practices, including through improved agricultural practices that address land degradation, in order to develop capacity for the implementation of national programmes.

64. Mobilize financial and other support to develop and strengthen health systems that aim to:

- (a) Promote equitable access to health-care services;
- (b) Make available necessary drugs and technology in a sustainable and affordable manner to fight and control communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and trypanosomiasis, as well as non-communicable diseases, including those caused by poverty;
- (c) Build capacity of medical and paramedical personnel;
- (d) Promote indigenous medical knowledge, as appropriate, including traditional medicine;
- (e) Research and control Ebola disease.

65. Deal effectively with natural disasters and conflicts, including their humanitarian and environmental impacts, recognizing that conflicts in Africa have hindered, and in many cases obliterated, both the gains and efforts aimed at sustainable development, with the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children, being the most impacted victims, through efforts and initiatives, at all levels, to:

- (a) Provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of African countries, including institutional and human capacity, including at the local level, for effective disaster management, including observation and early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;
- (b) Provide support to African countries to enable them to better deal with the displacement of people as a result of natural disasters and conflicts and put in place rapid response mechanisms;
- (c) Support Africa's efforts for the prevention and resolution, management and mitigation of conflicts and its early response to emerging conflict situations to avert tragic humanitarian consequences;
- (d) Provide support to refugee host countries in rehabilitating infrastructure and environment, including ecosystems and habitats, that were damaged in the process of receiving and settling refugees.

66. Promote integrated water resources development and optimize the upstream and downstream benefits therefrom, the development and effective management of water resources across all uses and the protection of water quality and aquatic ecosystems, including through initiatives at all levels, to:

- (a) Provide access to potable domestic water, hygiene education and improved sanitation and waste management at the household level through initiatives to encourage public and private investment in water supply and sanitation that give priority to the needs of the poor within stable and transparent national regulatory frameworks provided by Governments, while respecting local conditions

involving all concerned stakeholders and monitoring the performance and improving the accountability of public institutions and private companies; and develop critical water supply, reticulation and treatment infrastructure, and build capacity to maintain and manage systems to deliver water and sanitation services in both rural and urban areas;

(b) Develop and implement integrated river basin and watershed management strategies and plans for all major water bodies, consistent with paragraph 25 above;

(c) Strengthen regional, subregional and national capacities for data collection and processing and for planning, research, monitoring, assessment and enforcement, as well as arrangements for water resource management;

(d) Protect water resources, including groundwater and wetland ecosystems, against pollution, and, in cases of the most acute water scarcity, support efforts for developing non-conventional water resources, including the energy-efficient, cost-effective and sustainable desalination of seawater, rainwater harvesting and recycling of water.

67. Achieve significantly improved sustainable agricultural productivity and food security in furtherance of the agreed Millennium development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, including through initiatives at all levels to:

(a) Support the development and implementation of national policies and programmes, including research programmes and development plans of African countries to regenerate their agricultural sector and sustainably develop their fisheries, and increase investment in infrastructure, technology and extension services, according to country needs. African countries should be in the process of developing and implementing food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes, by 2005;

(b) Promote and support efforts and initiatives to secure equitable access to land tenure and clarify resource rights and responsibilities, through land and tenure reform processes that respect the rule of law and are enshrined in national law, and provide access to credit for all, especially women, and that enable economic and social empowerment and poverty eradication as well as efficient and ecologically sound utilization of land and that enable women producers to become decision makers and owners in the sector, including the right to inherit land;

(c) Improve market access for goods, including goods originating from African countries, in particular least developed countries, within the framework of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, without prejudging the outcome of the World Trade Organization negotiations, as well as within the framework of preferential agreements;

(d) Provide support for African countries to improve regional trade and economic integration between African countries. Attract and increase investment in regional market infrastructure;

(e) Support livestock development programmes aimed at progressive and effective control of animal diseases.

68. Achieve sound management of chemicals, with particular focus on hazardous chemicals and wastes, inter alia, through initiatives to assist African countries in elaborating national chemical profiles and regional and national frameworks and strategies for chemical management and establishing chemical focal points.

69. Bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity in terms of access infrastructure and technology transfer and application through integrated initiatives for Africa. Create an enabling environment to attract investment, accelerate existing and new programmes and projects to connect essential institutions and stimulate the adoption of information communication technologies in government and commerce programmes and other aspects of national economic and social life.

70. Support Africa's efforts to attain sustainable tourism that contributes to social, economic and infrastructure development through the following measures:

(a) Implementing projects at the local, national and subregional levels, with specific emphasis on marketing African tourism products, such as adventure tourism, ecotourism and cultural tourism;

(b) Establishing and supporting national and cross-border conservation areas to promote ecosystem conservation according to the ecosystem approach, and to promote sustainable tourism;

(c) Respecting local traditions and cultures and promoting the use of indigenous knowledge in natural resource management and ecotourism;

(d) Assisting host communities in managing their tourism projects for maximum benefit, while limiting negative impact on their traditions, culture and environment;

(e) Support the conservation of Africa's biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, in accordance with commitments that countries have under biodiversity-related agreements to which they are parties, including such agreements as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, as well as regional biodiversity agreements.

71. Support African countries in their efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration through initiatives to strengthen national and local institutional capacities in the areas of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, provide support for adequate shelter and basic services and the development of efficient and effective governance systems in cities and other human settlements and strengthen, inter alia, the joint programme on managing water for African cities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

## **IX. Other regional initiatives**

72. Important initiatives have been developed within other United Nations regions and regional, subregional and transregional forums to promote sustainable development. The international community welcomes these efforts and the results already achieved, calls for actions at all levels for their further development, while encouraging interregional, intraregional and international cooperation in this

respect, and expresses its support for their further development and implementation by the countries of the regions.

**A. Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

73. The Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is an undertaking by the leaders of that region that, building on the Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg, 2002,<sup>36</sup> which was approved in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001, recognizes the importance of regional actions towards sustainable development and takes into account the region's singularities, shared visions and cultural diversity. It is targeted towards the adoption of concrete actions in different areas of sustainable development, such as biodiversity, water resources, vulnerabilities and sustainable cities, social aspects, including health and poverty, economic aspects, including energy, and institutional arrangements, including capacity-building, indicators and participation of civil society, taking into account ethics for sustainable development.

74. The Initiative envisages the development of actions among countries in the region that may foster South-South cooperation and may count with the support of groups of countries, as well as multilateral and regional organizations, including financial institutions. As a framework for cooperation, the Initiative is open to partnerships with governments and all major groups.

**B. Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

75. Bearing in mind the target of halving the number of people who live in poverty by the year 2015, as provided in the Millennium Declaration, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific<sup>37</sup> recognized that the region contains over half of the world's population and the largest number of the world's people living in poverty. Hence, sustainable development in the region is critical to achieving sustainable development at the global level.

76. The Regional Platform identified seven initiatives for follow-up action: capacity-building for sustainable development; poverty reduction for sustainable development; cleaner production and sustainable energy; land management and biodiversity conservation; protection and management of and access to freshwater resources; oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island developing States; and action on atmosphere and climate change. Follow-up actions of these initiatives will be taken through national strategies and relevant regional and subregional initiatives, such as the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

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<sup>36</sup> E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/5/Add.2.

<sup>37</sup> E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/8.

**C. Sustainable development in the West Asia region**

77. The West Asia region is known for its scarce water and limited fertile land resources. The region has made progress to a more knowledge-based production of higher value-added commodities.

78. The regional preparatory meeting endorsed the following priorities: poverty alleviation, relief of debt burden; and sustainable management of natural resources, including, inter alia, integrated water resources management, implementation of programmes to combat desertification, integrated coastal zone management and land and water pollution control.

**D. Sustainable development in the Economic Commission for Europe region**

79. The Economic Commission for Europe regional ministerial meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized that the region has a major role to play and responsibilities in global efforts to achieve sustainable development by concrete actions. The region recognized that different levels of economic development in countries of the region may require the application of different approaches and mechanisms to implement Agenda 21. In order to address the three pillars of sustainable development in a mutually reinforcing way, the region identified its priority actions for sustainable development for the Economic Commission for Europe region in its Ministerial Statement to the Summit.<sup>38</sup>

80. In furtherance of the region's commitment to sustainable development, there are ongoing efforts at the regional, subregional and transregional levels, including, inter alia, the Environment for Europe process; the fifth Economic Commission for Europe ministerial conference, to be held in Kiev in May 2003; the development of an environmental strategy for the 12 countries of Eastern Europe; the Caucasus and Central Asia; the Central Asian Agenda 21; work of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on sustainable development, the European Union sustainable development strategy; and regional and subregional conventions and processes relevant to sustainable development, including, inter alia, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), the Alpine Convention, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act, the Iqaluit Declaration of the Arctic Council, the Baltic Agenda 21 and the Mediterranean Agenda 21.

**X. Means of implementation**

81. The implementation of Agenda 21 and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as in the present plan of action, require a substantially increased effort, both by countries themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio principles, including, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which states:

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<sup>38</sup> ECE/ACC.22/2001/2, annex I.

“States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.”

The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and Agenda 21, as well as in the present plan of action, will require significant increases in the flow of financial resources as elaborated in the Monterrey Consensus, including through new and additional financial resources, in particular to developing countries, to support the implementation of national policies and programmes developed by them, improved trade opportunities, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis, as mutually agreed, education and awareness-raising, capacity-building and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities within the agreed time frame required to meet these goals and initiatives. Progress to this end will require that the international community implement the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, such as the programmes of action adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries<sup>39</sup> and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and relevant international agreements since 1992, particularly those of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, including building on them as part of a process of achieving sustainable development.

82. Mobilizing and increasing the effective use of financial resources and achieving the national and international economic conditions needed to fulfil internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to eliminate poverty, improve social conditions and raise living standards and protect our environment, will be our first step to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of sustainable development for all.

83. In our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity. A crucial task is to enhance the efficacy, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies. An enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance. Efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community.

84. Facilitate greater flows of foreign direct investment so as to support the sustainable development activities, including the development of infrastructure, of developing countries, and enhance the benefits that developing countries can draw from foreign direct investment, with particular actions to:

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<sup>39</sup> A/CONF.192/13.

(a) Create the necessary domestic and international conditions to facilitate significant increases in the flow of foreign direct investment to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, which is critical to sustainable development, particularly foreign direct investment flows for infrastructure development and other priority areas in developing countries to supplement the domestic resources mobilized by them;

(b) Encourage foreign direct investment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through export credits that could be instrumental to sustainable development;

85. Recognize that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. To build support for official development assistance, we will cooperate to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness, with actions to:

(a) Make available the increased commitments in official development assistance announced by several developed countries at the International Conference on Financing for Development. Urge the developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and effectively implement their commitment on such assistance to the least developed countries as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>40</sup> which was adopted in Brussels on 20 May 2001. We also encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets in accordance with the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development. We acknowledge the efforts of all donors, commend those donors whose contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underline the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

(b) Encourage recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, to make official development assistance more efficient and effective for poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this regard, intensify efforts by the multilateral and bilateral financial and development institutions, in accordance with paragraph 43 of the Monterrey Consensus, in particular to harmonize their operational procedures at the highest standards, so as to reduce transaction costs and make disbursement and delivery of official development assistance more flexible and more responsive to the needs of developing countries, taking into account national development needs and objectives under the ownership of recipient countries, and to use development frameworks that are owned and driven by developing countries and that embody poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, as vehicles for aid delivery, upon request.

86. Make full and effective use of existing financial mechanisms and institutions, including through actions at all levels to:

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<sup>40</sup> A/CONF.191/11.

(a) Strengthen ongoing efforts to reform the existing international financial architecture to foster a transparent, equitable and inclusive system that is able to provide for the effective participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making processes and institutions, as well as for their effective and equitable participation in the formulation of financial standards and codes;

(b) Promote, inter alia, measures in source and destination countries to improve transparency and information about financial flows to contribute to stability in the international financial environment. Measures that mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows are important and must be considered;

(c) Work to ensure that the funds are made available on a timely, more assured and predictable basis to international organizations and agencies, where appropriate, for their sustainable development activities, programmes and projects;

(d) Encourage the private sector, including transnational corporations, private foundations and civil society institutions, to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries;

(e) Support new and existing public/private sector financing mechanisms for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to benefit in particular small entrepreneurs and small, medium-sized and community-based enterprises and to improve their infrastructure, while ensuring the transparency and accountability of such mechanisms.

87. Welcome the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, which will enable it to address the funding requirements of new focal areas and existing ones and continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries, in particular developing countries, and further encourage the Global Environment Facility to leverage additional funds from key public and private organizations, improve the management of funds through more speedy and streamlined procedures and simplify its project cycle.

88. Explore ways of generating new public and private innovative sources of finance for development purposes, provided that those sources do not unduly burden developing countries, noting the proposal to use special drawing rights allocations for development purposes, as set forth in paragraph 44 of the Monterrey Consensus.

89. Reduce unsustainable debt burden through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones. Therefore, debt relief measures should, where appropriate, be pursued vigorously and expeditiously, including within the Paris and London Clubs and other relevant forums, in order to contribute to debt sustainability and facilitate sustainable development, while recognizing that debtors and creditors must share responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations, and that external debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can then be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development. Therefore, we support paragraphs 47 to 51 of the Monterrey Consensus dealing with external debt. Debt relief arrangements should seek to avoid imposing any unfair burdens on other developing countries. There should be an increase in the use of grants for the poorest, debt-vulnerable countries. Countries are encouraged to develop national comprehensive strategies to



monitor and manage external liabilities as a key element in reducing national vulnerabilities. In this regard, actions are required to:

(a) Implement speedily, effectively and fully the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, taking into consideration, as appropriate, measures to address any fundamental changes in the economic circumstances of those developing countries with unsustainable debt burden caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or affected by conflict, taking into account initiatives which have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness;

(b) Encourage participation in the HIPC initiative of all creditors that have not yet done so;

(c) Bring international debtors and creditors together in relevant international forums to restructure unsustainable debt in a timely and efficient manner, taking into account the need to involve the private sector in the resolution of crises due to indebtedness, where appropriate;

(d) Acknowledge the problems of the debt sustainability of some non-HIPC low-income countries, in particular those facing exceptional circumstances;

(e) Encourage exploring innovative mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, including middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition. Such mechanisms may include debt-for-sustainable-development swaps;

(f) Encourage donor countries to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief do not detract from official development assistance resources intended for developing countries.

90. Recognizing the major role that trade can play in achieving sustainable development and in eradicating poverty, we encourage members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to pursue the work programme agreed at their Fourth Ministerial Conference. In order for developing countries, especially the least developed among them, to secure their share in the growth of world trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development, we urge WTO members to take the following actions:

(a) Facilitate the accession of all developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, that apply for membership in WTO, in accordance with the Monterrey Consensus;

(b) Support the work programme adopted at the Doha Ministerial Conference as an important commitment on the part of developed and developing countries to mainstream appropriate trade policies in their respective development policies and programmes;

(c) Implement substantial trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building measures and support the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, established after the Doha Ministerial Conference, as an important step forward in ensuring a sound and predictable basis for WTO-related technical assistance and capacity-building;

(d) Implement the New Strategy for Technical Cooperation for Capacity-Building, Growth and Integration endorsed in the Doha Declaration;

(e) Fully support the implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and urge development partners to significantly increase contributions to the Trust Fund for the Framework, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

91. In accordance with the Doha Declaration as well as with relevant decisions taken at Doha, we are determined to take concrete action to address issues and concerns raised by developing countries regarding the implementation of some WTO agreements and decisions, including the difficulties and resource constraints faced by them in fulfilling those agreements.

92. Call upon members of the World Trade Organization to fulfil the commitments made in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, notably in terms of market access, in particular for products of export interest to developing countries, especially least developed countries, by implementing the following actions, taking into account paragraph 45 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration:

(a) Review all special and differential treatment provisions with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, in accordance with paragraph 44 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration;

(b) Aim to reduce or, as appropriate, eliminate tariffs on non-agricultural products, including the reduction or elimination of tariff peaks, high tariffs and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries. Product coverage should be comprehensive and without a priori exclusions. The negotiations shall take fully into account the special needs and interests of developing and least developed countries, including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration;

(c) Fulfil, without prejudging the outcome of the negotiations, the commitment for comprehensive negotiations initiated under article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, as referred to in the Doha Ministerial Declaration,<sup>41</sup> aiming at substantial improvements in market access, reductions of with a view to phasing out all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, while agreeing that the provisions for special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations and shall be embodied in the schedules of concession and commitments and, as appropriate, in the rules and disciplines to be negotiated, so as to be operationally effective and to enable developing countries to effectively take account of their development needs, including food security and rural development. Take note of the non-trade concerns reflected in the negotiating proposals submitted by members of the World Trade Organization and confirm that non-trade concerns will be taken into account in the negotiations as provided for in the Agreement on Agriculture, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

93. Call on developed countries that have not already done so to work towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free access for all least developed countries' exports, as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

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<sup>41</sup> A/C.2/56/2, annex, paras. 13 and 14.

94. Commit to actively pursue the work programme of the World Trade Organization to address the trade-related issues and concerns affecting the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system in a manner commensurate with their special circumstances and in support of their efforts towards sustainable development, in accordance with paragraph 35 of the Doha Declaration.

95. Build the capacity of commodity-dependent countries to diversify exports through, inter alia, financial and technical assistance, international assistance for economic diversification and sustainable resource management and address the instability of commodity prices and declining terms of trade, as well as strengthen the activities covered by the second account of the Common Fund for Commodities to support sustainable development.

96. Enhance the benefits for developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, from trade liberalization, including through public-private partnerships, through, inter alia, action at all levels, including through financial support for technical assistance, the development of technology and capacity-building to developing countries to:

- (a) Enhance trade infrastructure and strengthen institutions;
- (b) Increase developing country capacity to diversify and increase exports to cope with the instability of commodity prices and declining terms of trade;
- (c) Increase the value added of developing country exports.

97. Continue to enhance the mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development with a view to achieving sustainable development through actions at all levels to:

- (a) Encourage the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and the WTO Committee on Trade and Development, within their respective mandates, to each act as a forum to identify and debate developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve an outcome which benefits sustainable development in accordance with the commitments made under the Doha Ministerial Declaration;
- (b) Support the completion of the work programme of the Doha Ministerial Declaration on subsidies so as to promote sustainable development and enhance the environment, and encourage reform of subsidies that have considerable negative effects on the environment and are incompatible with sustainable development;
- (c) Encourage efforts to promote cooperation on trade, environment and development, including in the field of providing technical assistance to developing countries, between the secretariats of WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, and other relevant international environmental and development and regional organizations;
- (d) Encourage the voluntary use of environmental impact assessments as an important national-level tool to better identify trade, environment and development interlinkages. Further encourage countries and international organizations with experience in this field to provide technical assistance to developing countries for these purposes.

98. Promote mutual supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and the multilateral environmental agreements, consistent with sustainable development

goals, in support of the work programme agreed through WTO, while recognizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of both sets of instruments.

99. Complement and support the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus by undertaking further action at the national, regional and international levels, including through public/private partnerships, to enhance the benefits, in particular for developing countries as well as for countries with economies in transition, of trade liberalization, through, inter alia, actions at all levels to:

(a) Establish and strengthen existing trade and cooperation agreements, consistent with the multilateral trading system, with a view to achieving sustainable development;

(b) Support voluntary WTO-compatible market-based initiatives for the creation and expansion of domestic and international markets for environmentally friendly goods and services, including organic products, which maximize environmental and developmental benefits through, inter alia, capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries;

(c) Support measures to simplify and make more transparent domestic regulations and procedures that affect trade so as to assist exporters, particularly those from developing countries.

100. Address the public health problems affecting many developing and least developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics, while noting the importance of the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and public health,<sup>42</sup> in which it was agreed that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent WTO members from taking measures to protect public health. Accordingly, while reiterating our commitment to the TRIPS Agreement, we reaffirm that the Agreement can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all.

101. States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

102. Take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being or that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid., paras. 17-19.

social services. Ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure.

103. Take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. People under foreign occupation must be protected in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

104. In accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>43</sup> this shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and thus possessed of a Government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction of any kind.

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105. Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, as set out in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

- (a) Provide information more effectively;
- (b) Enhance existing national institutional capacity in developing countries to improve access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;
- (c) Facilitate country-driven technology needs assessments;
- (d) Establish legal and regulatory frameworks in both supplier and recipient countries that expedite the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in a cost-effective manner by both public and private sectors and support their implementation;
- (e) Promote the access and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters.

106. Improve the transfer of technologies to developing countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

- (a) Improve interaction and collaboration, stakeholder relationships and networks between and among universities, research institutions, government agencies and the private sector;

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<sup>43</sup> General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

(b) Develop and strengthen networking of related institutional support structures, such as technology and productivity centres, research, training and development institutions, and national and regional cleaner production centres;

(c) Create partnerships conducive to investment and technology transfer, development and diffusion, to assist developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in sharing best practices and promoting programmes of assistance, and encourage collaboration between corporations and research institutes to enhance industrial efficiency, agricultural productivity, environmental management and competitiveness;

(d) Provide assistance to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in accessing environmentally sound technologies that are publicly owned or in the public domain, as well as available knowledge in the public domain on science and technology, and in accessing the know-how and expertise required in order for them to make independent use of this knowledge in pursuing their development goals;

(e) Support existing mechanisms and, where appropriate, establish new mechanisms for the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and economies in transition.

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107. Assist developing countries in building capacity to access a larger share of multilateral and global research and development programmes. In this regard, strengthen and, where appropriate, create centres for sustainable development in developing countries.

108. Build greater capacity in science and technology for sustainable development, with action to improve collaboration and partnerships on research and development and their widespread application among research institutions, universities, the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations and networks, as well as between and among scientists and academics of developing and developed countries, and in this regard encourage networking with and between centres of scientific excellence in developing countries.

109. Improve policy and decision-making at all levels through, inter alia, improved collaboration between natural and social scientists, and between scientists and policy makers, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Increase the use of scientific knowledge and technology and increase the beneficial use of local and indigenous knowledge in a manner respectful of the holders of that knowledge and consistent with national law;

(b) Make greater use of integrated scientific assessments, risk assessments and interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches;

(c) Continue to support and collaborate with international scientific assessments supporting decision-making, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with the broad participation of developing country experts;

(d) Assist developing countries in developing and implementing science and technology policies;

(e) Establish partnerships between scientific, public and private institutions, including by integrating the advice of scientists into decision-making bodies to ensure a greater role for science, technology development and engineering sectors;

(f) Promote and improve science-based decision-making and reaffirm the precautionary approach as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states:

“In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

110. Assist developing countries, through international cooperation, in enhancing their capacity in their efforts to address issues pertaining to environmental protection, including in their formulation and implementation of policies for environmental management and protection, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Improve their use of science and technology for environmental monitoring, assessment models, accurate databases and integrated information systems;

(b) Promote and, where appropriate, improve their use of satellite technologies for quality data collection, verification and updating, and further improve aerial and ground-based observations, in support of their efforts to collect quality, accurate, long-term, consistent and reliable data;

(c) Set up and, where appropriate, further develop national statistical services capable of providing sound data on science education and research and development activities that are necessary for effective science and technology policy-making.

111. Establish regular channels between policy makers and the scientific community to request and receive science and technology advice for the implementation of Agenda 21 and create and strengthen networks for science and education for sustainable development, at all levels, with the aim of sharing knowledge, experience and best practices and building scientific capacities, particularly in developing countries.

112. Use information and communication technologies, where appropriate, as tools to increase the frequency of communication and the sharing of experience and knowledge and to improve the quality of and access to information and communications technology in all countries, building on the work facilitated by the United Nations Information and Communications Technology Task Force and the efforts of other relevant international and regional forums.

113. Support publicly funded research and development entities to engage in strategic alliances for the purpose of enhancing research and development to achieve cleaner production and product technologies, through, inter alia, the mobilization from all sources of adequate financial and technical resources, including new and additional resources, and encourage the transfer and diffusion of those technologies, in particular to developing countries.

114. Examine issues of global public interest through open, transparent and inclusive workshops to promote a better public understanding of such questions.

115. Further resolve to take concerted action against international terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to sustainable development.

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116. Education is critical for promoting sustainable development. It is therefore essential to mobilize necessary resources, including financial resources at all levels, by bilateral and multilateral donors, including the World Bank and the regional development banks, by civil society and by foundations, to complement the efforts by national governments to pursue the following goals and actions:

(a) Meet the Millennium development goal of achieving universal primary education, ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling;

(b) Provide all children, particularly those living in rural areas and those living in poverty, especially girls, with the access and opportunity to complete a full course of primary education.

117. Provide financial assistance and support to education, research, public awareness programmes and developmental institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to:

(a) Sustain their educational infrastructures and programmes, including those related to environment and public health education;

(b) Consider means of avoiding the frequent, serious financial constraints faced by many institutions of higher learning, including universities around the world, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition.

118. Address the impact of HIV/AIDS on the educational system in those countries seriously affected by the pandemic.

119. Allocate national and international resources for basic education as proposed by the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All and for improved integration of sustainable development into education and in bilateral and multilateral development programmes, and improve integration between publicly funded research and development and development programmes.

120. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, as provided in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, and at all levels of education no later than 2015, to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, with action to ensure, inter alia, equal access to all levels and forms of education, training and capacity-building by gender mainstreaming, and by creating a gender-sensitive educational system.

121. Integrate sustainable development into education systems at all levels of education in order to promote education as a key agent for change.

122. Develop, implement, monitor and review education action plans and programmes at the national, subnational and local levels, as appropriate, that reflect the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All and that are relevant to local conditions and needs leading to the achievement of community development and make education for sustainable development a part of those plans.



123. Provide all community members with a wide range of formal and non-formal continuing educational opportunities, including volunteer community service programmes, in order to end illiteracy and emphasize the importance of lifelong learning and promote sustainable development.

124. Support the use of education to promote sustainable development, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Integrate information and communications technology in school curriculum development to ensure its access by both rural and urban communities and provide assistance, particularly to developing countries, inter alia, for the establishment of an appropriate enabling environment required for such technology;

(b) Promote, as appropriate, affordable and increased access to programmes for students, researchers and engineers from developing countries in the universities and research institutions of developed countries in order to promote the exchange of experience and capacity that will benefit all partners;

(c) Continue to implement the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development on education for sustainable development;

(d) Recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that it consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005.

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125. Enhance and accelerate human, institutional and infrastructure capacity-building initiatives and promote partnerships in that regard that respond to the specific needs of developing countries in the context of sustainable development.

126. Support local, national, subregional and regional initiatives with action to develop, use and adapt knowledge and techniques and to enhance local, national, subregional and regional centres of excellence for education, research and training in order to strengthen the knowledge capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition through, inter alia, the mobilization from all sources of adequate financial and other resources, including new and additional resources.

127. Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries, including through the strengthening of capacity-building efforts, such as the United Nations Development Programme Capacity 21 programme, to:

(a) Assess their own capacity development needs and opportunities at the individual, institutional and societal levels;

(b) Design programmes for capacity-building and support for local, national and community-level programmes that focus on meeting the challenges of globalization more effectively and attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(c) Develop the capacity of civil society, including youth, to participate, as appropriate, in designing, implementing and reviewing sustainable development policies and strategies at all levels;

(d) Build and, where appropriate, strengthen national capacities for carrying out effective implementation of Agenda 21.

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128. Ensure access, at the national level, to environmental information and judicial and administrative proceedings in environmental matters, as well as public participation in decision-making, so as to further principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into full account principles 5, 7 and 11 of the Declaration.

129. Strengthen national and regional information and statistical and analytical services relevant to sustainable development policies and programmes, including data disaggregated by sex, age and other factors, and encourage donors to provide financial and technical support to developing countries to enhance their capacity to formulate policies and implement programmes for sustainable development.

130. Encourage further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities.

131. Promote further work on indicators, in conformity with paragraph 3 of decision 9/4 of the Commission on Sustainable Development.<sup>44</sup>

132. Promote the development and wider use of earth observation technologies, including satellite remote sensing, global mapping and geographic information systems, to collect quality data on environmental impacts, land use and land-use changes, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Strengthen cooperation and coordination among global observing systems and research programmes for integrated global observations, taking into account the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries;

(b) Develop information systems that make the sharing of valuable data possible, including the active exchange of Earth observation data;

(c) Encourage initiatives and partnerships for global mapping.

133. Support countries, particularly developing countries, in their national efforts to:

(a) Collect data that are accurate, long-term, consistent and reliable;

(b) Use satellite and remote-sensing technologies for data collection and further improvement of ground-based observations;

(c) Access, explore and use geographic information by utilizing the technologies of satellite remote sensing, satellite global positioning, mapping and geographic information systems.

134. Support efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Provide affordable access to disaster-related information for early warning purposes;

(b) Translate available data, particularly from global meteorological observation systems, into timely and useful products.

135. Develop and promote the wider application of environmental impact assessments, inter alia, as a national instrument, as appropriate, to provide essential

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<sup>44</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 9 (E/2001/29)*, chap. I.B.

decision-support information on projects that could cause significant adverse effects to the environment.

136. Promote and further develop methodologies at policy, strategy and project levels for sustainable development decision-making at the local and national levels, and where relevant at the regional level. In this regard, emphasize that the choice of the appropriate methodology to be used in countries should be adequate to their country-specific conditions and circumstances, should be on a voluntary basis and should conform to their development priority needs.

## **XI. Institutional framework for sustainable development**

137. An effective institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels is key to the full implementation of Agenda 21, the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and meeting emerging sustainable development challenges. Measures aimed at strengthening such a framework should build on the provisions of Agenda 21, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 of 1997, and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and should promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, taking into account the Monterrey Consensus and relevant outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. It should be responsive to the needs of all countries, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries including the means of implementation. It should lead to the strengthening of international bodies and organizations dealing with sustainable development, while respecting their existing mandates, as well as to the strengthening of relevant regional, national and local institutions.

138. Good governance is essential for sustainable development. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and employment creation. Freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies, and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing.

### **A. Objectives**

139. Measures to strengthen institutional arrangements on sustainable development, at all levels, should be taken within the framework of Agenda 21,<sup>45</sup> build on developments since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and lead to the achievement of, inter alia, the following objectives:

- (a) Strengthening commitments to sustainable development;
- (b) Integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner;

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<sup>45</sup> References in the present chapter to Agenda 21 are deemed to include Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit.

(c) Strengthening of the implementation of Agenda 21, including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes, particularly for developing countries;

(d) Strengthening coherence, coordination and monitoring;

(e) Promoting the rule of law and strengthening of governmental institutions;

(f) Increasing effectiveness and efficiency through limiting overlap and duplication of activities of international organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, based on their mandates and comparative advantages;

(g) Enhancing participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation;

(h) Strengthening capacities for sustainable development at all levels, including the local level, in particular those of developing countries;

(i) Strengthening international cooperation aimed at reinforcing the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit.

**B. Strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level**

140. The international community should:

(a) Enhance the integration of sustainable development goals as reflected in Agenda 21 and support for implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit into the policies, work programmes and operational guidelines of relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility and international financial and trade institutions, within their mandates, while stressing that their activities should take full account of national programmes and priorities, particularly those of developing countries, as well as, where appropriate, countries with economies in transition, to achieve sustainable development;

(b) Strengthen collaboration within and between the United Nations system, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and the World Trade Organization, utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Environment Management Group and other inter-agency coordinating bodies. Strengthened inter-agency collaboration should be pursued in all relevant contexts, with special emphasis on the operational level and involving partnership arrangements on specific issues, to support, in particular, the efforts of developing countries in implementing Agenda 21;

(c) Strengthen and better integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development policies and programmes and promote the full integration of sustainable development objectives into programmes and policies of bodies that have a primary focus on social issues. In particular, the social dimension of sustainable development should be strengthened, inter alia, by emphasizing follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and its five-year review, and taking into account their reports, and by support to social protection systems;

(d) Fully implement the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session<sup>46</sup> and invite the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session to consider the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(e) Engage actively and constructively in ensuring the timely completion of the negotiations on a comprehensive United Nations convention against corruption, including the question of repatriation of funds illicitly acquired to countries of origin;

(f) Promote corporate responsibility and accountability and the exchange of best practices in the context of sustainable development, including, as appropriate, through multi-stakeholder dialogue, such as through the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other initiatives;

(g) Take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus at all levels.

141. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

142. A vibrant and effective United Nations system is fundamental to the promotion of international cooperation for sustainable development and to a global economic system that works for all. To this effect, a firm commitment to the ideals of the United Nations, the principles of international law and those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to strengthening the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions and promoting the improvement of their operations, is essential. States should also fulfil their commitment to negotiate and finalize as soon as possible a United Nations convention against corruption in all its aspects, including the question of repatriation of funds illicitly acquired to countries of origin and also to promoting stronger cooperation to eliminate money laundering.

### **C. Role of the General Assembly**

143. The General Assembly of the United Nations should adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, particularly for achieving the internationally agreed development goals,

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<sup>46</sup> UNEP/GCSS.VII/6, annex I.

including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and should give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21 and its review.

#### **D. Role of the Economic and Social Council**

144. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of Agenda 21 regarding the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 50/227, which reaffirmed the Council as the central mechanism for the coordination of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies, in particular its functional commissions, and to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination, the Council should:

(a) Increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development;

(b) Organize periodic consideration of sustainable development themes in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, including the means of implementation. Recommendations in regard to such themes could be made by the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) Make full use of its high-level, coordination, operational activities and the general segments to effectively take into account all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations on sustainable development. In this context, the Council should encourage the active participation of major groups in its high-level segment and the work of its relevant functional commissions, in accordance with the respective rules of procedure;

(d) Promote greater coordination, complementarity, effectiveness and efficiency of activities of its functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies that are relevant to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(e) Terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and transfer its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(f) Ensure that there is a close link between the role of the Council in the follow-up to the Summit and its role in the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus, in a sustained and coordinated manner. To that end, the Council should explore ways to develop arrangements relating to its meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as set out in the Monterrey Consensus;

(g) Intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its activities concerning the coordinated implementation of Agenda 21.

#### **E. Role and function of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

145. The Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Although the role, functions and mandate of the Commission as set out in relevant parts of Agenda 21 and adopted in General Assembly resolution 47/191 continue to be relevant, the Commission needs to be strengthened, taking into account the role of relevant institutions and organizations.

An enhanced role of the Commission should include reviewing and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and fostering coherence of implementation, initiatives and partnerships.

146. Within that context, the Commission should place more emphasis on actions that enable implementation at all levels, including promoting and facilitating partnerships involving Governments, international organizations and relevant stakeholders for the implementation of Agenda 21.

147. The Commission should:

(a) Review and evaluate progress and promote further implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) Focus on the cross-sectoral aspects of specific sectoral issues and provide a forum for better integration of policies, including through interaction among Ministers dealing with the various dimensions and sectors of sustainable development through the high-level segments;

(c) Address new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(d) Focus on actions related to implementation of Agenda 21, limiting negotiations in the sessions of the Commission to every two years;

(e) Limit the number of themes addressed in each session.

148. In relation to its role in facilitating implementation, the Commission should emphasize the following:

(a) Review progress and promote the further implementation of Agenda 21. In this context, the Commission should identify constraints on implementation and make recommendations to overcome those constraints;

(b) Serve as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices;

(c) Review issues related to financial assistance and transfer of technology for sustainable development, as well as capacity-building, while making full use of existing information. In this regard, the Commission on Sustainable Development could give consideration to more effective use of national reports and regional experience and to this end make appropriate recommendations;

(d) Provide a forum for analysis and exchange of experience on measures that assist sustainable development planning, decision-making and the implementation of sustainable development strategies. In this regard, the Commission could give consideration to more effective use of national and regional reports;

(e) Take into account significant legal developments in the field of sustainable development, with due regard to the role of relevant intergovernmental bodies in promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 relating to international legal instruments and mechanisms.

149. With regard to the practical modalities and programme of work of the Commission, specific decisions on those issues should be taken by the Commission

at its next session, when the Commission's thematic work programme will be elaborated. In particular, the following issues should be considered:

- (a) Giving a balanced consideration to implementation of all of the mandates of the Commission contained in General Assembly resolution 47/191;
- (b) Continuing to provide for more direct and substantive involvement of international organizations and major groups in the work of the Commission;
- (c) Give greater consideration to the scientific contributions to sustainable development through, for example, drawing on the scientific community and encouraging national, regional and international scientific networks to be involved in the Commission;
- (d) Furthering the contribution of educators to sustainable development, including, where appropriate, in the activities of the Commission;
- (e) The scheduling and duration of intersessional meetings.

150. Undertake further measures to promote best practices and lessons learned in sustainable development, and in addition promote the use of contemporary methods of data collection and dissemination, including broader use of information technologies.

#### **F. Role of international institutions**

151. Stress the need for international institutions both within and outside the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, the World Trade Organization and the Global Environment Facility, to enhance, within their mandates, their cooperative efforts to:

- (a) Promote effective and collective support to the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels;
- (b) Enhance the effectiveness and coordination of international institutions to implement Agenda 21, the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, relevant sustainable development aspects of the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha in November 2001.

152. Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including through informal collaborative efforts, to further promote system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination on sustainable development, to take appropriate measures to facilitate exchange of information, and to continue to keep the Economic and Social Council and the Commission informed of actions being taken to implement Agenda 21.

153. Significantly strengthen support for the capacity-building programmes of the United Nations Development Programme for sustainable development, building on the experience gained from the Capacity 21 programme, as important mechanisms for supporting local and national development capacity-building efforts, in particular in developing countries.



154. Strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, within their mandates.

155. The United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within their mandates, should strengthen their contribution to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, particularly in the area of promoting capacity-building.

156. To promote effective implementation of Agenda 21 at the international level, the following should also be undertaken:

(a) Streamline the international sustainable development meeting calendar and, as appropriate, reduce the number of meetings, the length of meetings and the amount of time spent on negotiated outcomes in favour of more time spent on practical matters related to implementation;

(b) Encourage partnership initiatives for implementation by all relevant actors to support the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In this context, further development of partnerships and partnership follow-up should take note of the preparatory work for the Summit;

(c) Make full use of developments in the field of information and communication technologies.

157. Strengthening of the international institutional framework for sustainable development is an evolutionary process. It is necessary to keep relevant arrangements under review; identify gaps; eliminate duplication of functions; and continue to strive for greater integration, efficiency and coordination of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development aiming at the implementation of Agenda 21.

#### **G. Strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable development at the regional level**

158. Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

159. Intraregional coordination and cooperation on sustainable development should be improved among the regional commissions, United Nations Funds, programmes and agencies, regional development banks and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies. This should include, as appropriate, support for development, enhancement and implementation of agreed regional sustainable development strategies and action plans, reflecting national and regional priorities.

160. In particular, taking into account relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional bodies, should:

(a) Promote the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into their work in a balanced way, including through implementation

of Agenda 21. To this end, the regional commissions should enhance their capacity through internal action and be provided, as appropriate, with external support;

(b) Facilitate and promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into the work of regional, subregional and other bodies, for example by facilitating and strengthening the exchange of experiences, including national experience, best practices, case studies and partnership experience related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(c) Assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance, and facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects, including addressing the objective of poverty eradication;

(d) Continue to promote multi-stakeholder participation and encourage partnerships to support the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional and subregional levels.

161. Regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development initiatives and programmes, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the interregional aspects of the globally agreed Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, should be supported.

#### **H. Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable development at the national level**

162. States should:

(a) Continue to promote coherent and coordinated approaches to institutional frameworks for sustainable development at all national levels, including through, as appropriate, the establishment or strengthening of existing authorities and mechanisms necessary for policy-making, coordination and implementation and enforcement of laws;

(b) Take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005. To this end, as appropriate, strategies should be supported through international cooperation, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. Such strategies, which, where applicable, could be formulated as poverty reduction strategies that integrate economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, should be pursued in accordance with each country's national priorities.

163. Each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development, and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. All countries should promote sustainable development at the national level by, inter alia, enacting and enforcing clear and effective laws that support sustainable development. All countries should strengthen governmental institutions, including by providing necessary infrastructure and by promoting transparency, accountability and fair administrative and judicial institutions.

164. All countries should also promote public participation, including through measures that provide access to information regarding legislation, regulations, activities, policies and programmes. They should also foster full public participation

in sustainable development policy formulation and implementation. Women should be able to participate fully and equally in policy formulation and decision-making.

165. Further promote the establishment or enhancement of sustainable development councils and/or coordination structures at the national level, including at the local level, in order to provide a high-level focus on sustainable development policies. In that context, multi-stakeholder participation should be promoted.

166. Support efforts by all countries, particularly developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to enhance national institutional arrangements for sustainable development, including at the local level. That could include promoting cross-sectoral approaches in the formulation of strategies and plans for sustainable development, such as, where applicable, poverty reduction strategies, aid coordination, encouraging participatory approaches and enhancing policy analysis, management capacity and implementation capacity, including mainstreaming a gender perspective in all those activities.

167. Enhance the role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit and in strengthening the continuing support for local Agenda 21 programmes and associated initiatives and partnerships and encourage, in particular, partnerships among and between local authorities and other levels of government and stakeholders to advance sustainable development as called for in, inter alia, the Habitat Agenda.<sup>47</sup>

#### **I. Participation of major groups**

168. Enhance partnerships between governmental and non-governmental actors, including all major groups, as well as volunteer groups, on programmes and activities for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels.

169. Acknowledge the consideration being given to the possible relationship between environment and human rights, including the right to development, with full and transparent participation of Member States of the United Nations and observer States.

170. Promote and support youth participation in programmes and activities relating to sustainable development through, for example, supporting local youth councils or their equivalent, and by encouraging their establishment where they do not exist.

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<sup>47</sup> A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/66/L.56)]

### 66/288. The future we want

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, in which it decided to organize, in 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level, as well as its resolution 66/197 of 22 December 2011,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Brazil for hosting the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012, and for providing all the necessary support;
2. *Endorses* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, annexed to the present resolution.

*123rd plenary meeting  
27 July 2012*

## Annex

### The future we want

#### I. Our common vision

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with the full participation of civil society, renew our commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations.
2. Poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In this regard, we are committed to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency.

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 17 January 2013.



3. We therefore acknowledge 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.

4. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to make every effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

6. We recognize that people are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, we strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and we commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all.

7. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles.

8. We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

9. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

10. We acknowledge that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. We reaffirm that, to achieve our sustainable development goals, we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic.

11. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable development for all, in particular in

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

developing countries. In this regard, we reaffirm the need to achieve economic stability, sustained economic growth, the promotion of social equity and the protection of the environment, while enhancing gender equality, women's empowerment and equal opportunities for all, and the protection, survival and development of children to their full potential, including through education.

12. We resolve to take urgent action to achieve sustainable development. We therefore renew our commitment to sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges. We express our determination to address the themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, namely, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

13. We recognize that opportunities for people to influence their lives and future, participate in decision-making and voice their concerns are fundamental for sustainable development. We underscore that sustainable development requires concrete and urgent action. It can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations.

## **II. Renewing political commitment**

### **A. Reaffirming the Rio Principles and past action plans**

14. We recall the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972.<sup>2</sup>

15. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>3</sup> including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

16. We reaffirm our commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21,<sup>4</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>5</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>6</sup> and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,<sup>7</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action)<sup>8</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the

<sup>2</sup> See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.<sup>9</sup> We also reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),<sup>10</sup> the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>11</sup> the political declaration on Africa's development needs<sup>12</sup> and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.<sup>13</sup> We recall as well our commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>14</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>15</sup> the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>16</sup> the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>17</sup> the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>18</sup> the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>19</sup> the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>20</sup> and the Beijing Declaration<sup>21</sup> and Platform for Action.<sup>22</sup>

17. We recognize the importance of the three Rio conventions for advancing sustainable development, and in this regard we urge all parties to fully implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>23</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>24</sup> and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>25</sup> in accordance with their

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>10</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

<sup>11</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

<sup>12</sup> See resolution 63/1.

<sup>13</sup> A/57/304, annex.

<sup>14</sup> See resolution 55/2.

<sup>15</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>17</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>18</sup> See resolution 65/1.

<sup>19</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>20</sup> Resolution S-21/2, annex.

<sup>21</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

respective principles and provisions, as well as to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels and enhance international cooperation.

18. We are determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of commitment by the international community to move the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We further reaffirm our respective commitments to other relevant internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields since 1992. We therefore resolve to take concrete measures that accelerate implementation of sustainable development commitments.

**B. Advancing integration, implementation and coherence: assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges**

19. We recognize that the twenty years since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 have seen uneven progress, including in sustainable development and poverty eradication. We emphasize the need to make progress in implementing previous commitments. We also recognize the need to accelerate progress in closing development gaps between developed and developing countries, and to seize and create opportunities to achieve sustainable development through economic growth and diversification, social development and environmental protection. To this end, we underscore the continued need for an enabling environment at the national and international levels, as well as continued and strengthened international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt, trade and technology transfer, as mutually agreed, and innovation, entrepreneurship, capacity-building, transparency and accountability. We recognize the diversification of actors and stakeholders engaged in the pursuit of sustainable development. In this context, we affirm the continued need for the full and effective participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in global decision-making.

20. We acknowledge that, since 1992, there have been areas of insufficient progress and setbacks in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, aggravated by multiple financial, economic, food and energy crises, which have threatened the ability of all countries, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development. In this regard, it is critical that we do not backtrack from our commitment to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. We also recognize that one of the current major challenges for all countries, particularly for developing countries, is the impact from the multiple crises affecting the world today.

21. We are deeply concerned that one in five people on this planet, or over 1 billion people, still live in extreme poverty, and that one in seven — or 14 per cent — is undernourished, while public health challenges, including pandemics and epidemics, remain omnipresent threats. In this context, we note the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on human security. We acknowledge that with the world's population projected to exceed 9 billion by 2050, with an estimated two thirds living in cities, we need to increase our efforts to achieve sustainable development and, in particular, the eradication of poverty, hunger and preventable diseases.

22. We recognize examples of progress in sustainable development at the regional, national, subnational and local levels. We note that efforts to achieve sustainable development have been reflected in regional, national and subnational policies and plans, and that governments have strengthened their commitment to sustainable



development since the adoption of Agenda 21 through legislation and institutions, and the development and implementation of international, regional and subregional agreements and commitments.

23. We reaffirm the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including 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, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

24. We express deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and note the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all levels. In this regard, we recognize the need for a global strategy on youth and employment building on the work of the International Labour Organization.

25. We acknowledge that climate change is a cross-cutting and persistent crisis, and express our concern that the scale and gravity of the negative impacts of climate change affect all countries and undermine the ability of all countries, in particular, developing countries, to achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals, and threaten the viability and survival of nations. Therefore, we underscore that combating climate change requires urgent and ambitious action, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

26. States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

27. We reiterate our commitment, expressed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals of 2010, to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated.

28. We reaffirm that, in accordance with the Charter, this shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State.

29. We resolve to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism.

30. We recognize that many people, especially the poor, depend directly on ecosystems for their livelihoods, their economic, social and physical well-being, and their cultural heritage. For this reason, it is essential to generate decent jobs and incomes that decrease disparities in standards of living in order to better meet people's needs and promote sustainable livelihoods and practices and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems.

31. We emphasize that sustainable development must be inclusive and people-centred, benefiting and involving all people, including youth and children. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are important for sustainable development and our common future. We reaffirm our commitments to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy, society and political decision-making.

32. We recognize that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and we underscore the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. Countries in situations of conflict also need special attention.

33. We reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and achieving sustainable development.

34. We reaffirm that the Istanbul Programme of Action outlines the priorities of least developed countries for sustainable development and defines a framework for renewed and strengthened global partnership to implement them. We commit to assist the least developed countries with the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

35. We recognize that more attention should be given to Africa and the implementation of previously agreed commitments related to its development needs that were made at major United Nations summits and conferences. We note that aid to Africa has increased in recent years. However, it still lags behind commitments that were previously made. We underscore the key priority for the international community of supporting Africa's sustainable development efforts. In this regard, we recommit to fully implement the internationally agreed commitments related to Africa's development needs, particularly those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>26</sup> the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, as well as the 2008 political declaration on Africa's development needs.

36. We recognize the serious constraints to achieving sustainable development in all its three dimensions in landlocked developing countries. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to address the special development needs and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the declaration on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action.<sup>27</sup>

37. We recognize the progress made by middle-income countries in improving the well-being of their people, as well as the specific development challenges they face in their efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and achieve their

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<sup>26</sup> See resolution 57/2.

<sup>27</sup> See resolution 63/2.

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to achieve sustainable development in a comprehensive manner integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions. We reiterate that these efforts should be adequately supported by the international community, in various forms, taking into account the needs and the capacity to mobilize domestic resources of these countries.

38. We recognize the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard we request the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organizations, to launch a programme of work in this area, building on existing initiatives.

39. We recognize that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and we note that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development. We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature.

40. We call for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem.

41. We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development.

### **C. Engaging major groups and other stakeholders**

42. We reaffirm the key role of all levels of government and legislative bodies in promoting sustainable development. We further acknowledge efforts and progress made at the local and subnational levels, and recognize the important role that such authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development, including by engaging citizens and stakeholders and providing them with relevant information, as appropriate, on the three dimensions of sustainable development. We further acknowledge the importance of involving all relevant decision makers in the planning and implementation of sustainable development policies.

43. We underscore that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential to the promotion of sustainable development. Sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups: women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers, as well as other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities. In this regard, we agree to work more closely with the major groups and other stakeholders, and encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels.

44. We acknowledge the role of civil society and the importance of enabling all members of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development. We recognize that improved participation of civil society depends upon, inter alia, strengthening access to information and building civil society capacity and an

enabling environment. We recognize that information and communications technology is facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public. In this regard, it is essential to work towards improved access to information and communications technology, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard.

45. We underscore that women have a vital role to play in achieving sustainable development. We recognize the leadership role of women, and we resolve to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels.

46. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and the private sectors. We recognize that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including through the important tool of public-private partnerships. We support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of corporate social responsibility. We call upon the private sector to engage in responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the United Nations Global Compact.

47. We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We encourage industry, interested governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building.

48. We recognize the important contribution of the scientific and technological community to sustainable development. We are committed to working with and fostering collaboration among the academic, scientific and technological community, in particular in developing countries, to close the technological gap between developing and developed countries and strengthen the science-policy interface, as well as to foster international research collaboration on sustainable development.

49. We stress the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>28</sup> in the context of global, regional, national and subnational implementation of sustainable development strategies.

50. We stress the importance of the active participation of young people in decision-making processes, as the issues we are addressing have a deep impact on present and future generations and as the contribution of children and youth is vital to the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize the need to promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity by recognizing their views.

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<sup>28</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

51. We stress the importance of the participation of workers and trade unions in the promotion of sustainable development. As the representatives of working people, trade unions are important partners in facilitating the achievement of sustainable development, in particular the social dimension. Information, education and training on sustainability at all levels, including in the workplace, are key to strengthening the capacity of workers and trade unions to support sustainable development.

52. We recognize that farmers, including small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, pastoralists and foresters, can make important contributions to sustainable development through production activities that are environmentally sound, enhance food security and the livelihood of the poor and invigorate production and sustained economic growth.

53. We note the valuable contributions that non-governmental organizations could and do make in promoting sustainable development through their well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity, especially in the area of analysis, the sharing of information and knowledge, promotion of dialogue and support of implementation of sustainable development.

54. We recognize the central role of the United Nations in advancing the sustainable development agenda. We acknowledge as well, in this regard, the contributions of other relevant international organizations, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, and stress the importance of cooperation among them and with the United Nations, within their respective mandates, recognizing their role in mobilizing resources for sustainable development.

55. We commit ourselves to reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development that we launched in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. We recognize the need to impart new momentum to our cooperative pursuit of sustainable development, and commit to work together with major groups and other stakeholders in addressing implementation gaps.

### **III. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**

56. We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal. In this regard, we consider green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and that it could provide options for policymaking but should not be a rigid set of rules. We emphasize that it should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystems.

57. We affirm that policies for green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be guided by and in accordance with all the Rio Principles, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and contribute towards achieving relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

58. We affirm that green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should:

- (a) Be consistent with international law;
- (b) Respect each country's national sovereignty over their natural resources, taking into account its national circumstances, objectives, responsibilities, priorities and policy space with regard to the three dimensions of sustainable development;
- (c) Be supported by an enabling environment and well-functioning institutions at all levels, with a leading role for governments and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;
- (d) Promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, foster innovation and provide opportunities, benefits and empowerment for all and respect for all human rights;
- (e) Take into account the needs of developing countries, particularly those in special situations;
- (f) Strengthen international cooperation, including the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;
- (g) Effectively avoid unwarranted conditionalities on official development assistance and finance;
- (h) Not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, avoid unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country and ensure that environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems, as far as possible, are based on international consensus;
- (i) Contribute to closing technology gaps between developed and developing countries and reduce the technological dependence of developing countries, using all appropriate measures;
- (j) Enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples and their communities, other local and traditional communities and ethnic minorities, recognizing and supporting their identity, culture and interests, and avoid endangering their cultural heritage, practices and traditional knowledge, preserving and respecting non-market approaches that contribute to the eradication of poverty;
- (k) Enhance the welfare of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, smallholder and subsistence farmers, fisherfolk and those working in small and medium-sized enterprises, and improve the livelihoods and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable groups, in particular in developing countries;
- (l) Mobilize the full potential and ensure the equal contribution of both women and men;
- (m) Promote productive activities in developing countries that contribute to the eradication of poverty;
- (n) Address the concern about inequalities and promote social inclusion, including social protection floors;
- (o) Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (p) Continue efforts to strive for inclusive, equitable development approaches to overcome poverty and inequality.

59. We view the implementation of green economy policies by countries that seek to apply them for the transition towards sustainable development as a common undertaking, and we recognize that each country can choose an appropriate approach in accordance with national sustainable development plans, strategies and priorities.

60. We acknowledge that green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably and with lower negative environmental impacts, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste.

61. We recognize that urgent action on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption where they occur remains fundamental in addressing environmental sustainability and promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, regeneration of natural resources and the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth.

62. We encourage each country to consider the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a manner that endeavours to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor. In this respect, we note the importance of ensuring that workers are equipped with the necessary skills, including through education and capacity-building, and are provided with the necessary social and health protections. In this regard, we encourage all stakeholders, including business and industry, to contribute, as appropriate. We invite governments to improve knowledge and statistical capacity on job trends, developments and constraints and integrate relevant data into national statistics, with the support of relevant United Nations agencies within their mandates.

63. We recognize the importance of the evaluation of the range of social, environmental and economic factors, and encourage, where national circumstances and conditions allow, their integration into decision-making. We acknowledge that it will be important to take into account the opportunities and challenges, as well as the costs and benefits, of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, using the best available scientific data and analysis. We acknowledge that a mix of measures, including regulatory, voluntary and others applied at the national level and consistent with obligations under international agreements, could promote green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. We reaffirm that social policies are vital to promoting sustainable development.

64. We acknowledge that involvement of all stakeholders and their partnerships, networking and experience-sharing at all levels could help countries to learn from one another in identifying appropriate sustainable development policies, including green economy policies. We note the positive experiences in some countries, including in developing countries, in adopting green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication through an inclusive approach, and welcome the voluntary exchange of experiences, as well as capacity-building, in the different areas of sustainable development.

65. We recognize the power of communications technologies, including connection technologies and innovative applications, to promote knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and capacity-building for sustainable development. These technologies and applications can build capacity and enable the sharing of experiences and knowledge in the different areas of sustainable development in an open and transparent manner.

66. Recognizing the importance of linking financing, technology, capacity-building and national needs for sustainable development policies, including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, we invite the United Nations system, in cooperation with relevant donors and international organizations, to coordinate and provide information upon request on:

(a) Matching interested countries with the partners that are best suited to provide requested support;

(b) Toolboxes and/or best practices in applying policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at all levels;

(c) Models or good examples of policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

(d) Methodologies for evaluation of policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

(e) Existing and emerging platforms that contribute in this regard.

67. We underscore the importance of governments taking a leadership role in developing policies and strategies through an inclusive and transparent process. We also take note of the efforts of those countries, including developing countries, that have already initiated processes to prepare national green economy strategies and policies in support of sustainable development.

68. We invite relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations regional commissions, United Nations organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, according to their respective mandates, to support developing countries, upon request, to achieve sustainable development, including through, inter alia, green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular in least developed countries.

69. We also invite business and industry as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation to contribute to sustainable development and to develop sustainability strategies that integrate, inter alia, green economy policies.

70. We acknowledge the role of cooperatives and microenterprises in contributing to social inclusion and poverty reduction, in particular in developing countries.

71. We encourage existing and new partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to mobilize public financing complemented by the private sector, taking into account the interests of local and indigenous communities when appropriate. In this regard, governments should support initiatives for sustainable development, including promoting the contribution of the private sector to support green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

72. We recognize the critical role of technology as well as the importance of promoting innovation, in particular in developing countries. We invite governments, as appropriate, to create enabling frameworks that foster environmentally sound technology, research and development, and innovation, including in support of green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

73. We emphasize the importance of technology transfer to developing countries, and recall the provisions on technology transfer, finance, access to information and intellectual property rights, as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,



in particular its call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. We also take note of the further evolution of discussions and agreements on these issues since the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

74. We recognize that the efforts of developing countries that choose to implement green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be supported through technical and technological assistance.

#### **IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development**

##### **A. Strengthening the three dimensions of sustainable development**

75. We underscore the importance of a strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development which responds coherently and effectively to current and future challenges and efficiently bridges gaps in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. The institutional framework for sustainable development should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner and enhance implementation by, inter alia, strengthening coherence and coordination, avoiding duplication of efforts and reviewing progress in implementing sustainable development. We also reaffirm that the framework should be inclusive, transparent and effective and that it should find common solutions related to global challenges to sustainable development.

76. We recognize that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development. The strengthening and reform of the institutional framework should not be an end in itself, but a means to achieve sustainable development. We recognize that an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level should be consistent with the Rio Principles, build on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and its objectives on the institutional framework for sustainable development, contribute to the implementation of our commitments in the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and take into account national priorities and the development strategies and priorities of developing countries. We therefore resolve to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development, which will, inter alia:

(a) Promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

(b) Be based on an action- and result-oriented approach giving due regard to all relevant cross-cutting issues with the aim to contribute to the implementation of sustainable development;

(c) Underscore the importance of interlinkages among key issues and challenges and the need for a systematic approach to them at all relevant levels;

(d) Enhance coherence, reduce fragmentation and overlap and increase effectiveness, efficiency and transparency, while reinforcing coordination and cooperation;

(e) Promote full and effective participation of all countries in decision-making processes;

(f) Engage high-level political leaders, provide policy guidance and identify specific actions to promote effective implementation of sustainable development, including through voluntary sharing of experiences and lessons learned;

(g) Promote the science-policy interface through inclusive, evidence-based and transparent scientific assessments, as well as access to reliable, relevant and timely data in areas related to the three dimensions of sustainable development, building on existing mechanisms, as appropriate; in this regard, strengthen participation of all countries in international sustainable development processes and capacity-building especially for developing countries, including in conducting their own monitoring and assessments;

(h) Enhance the participation and effective engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the relevant international forums and, in this regard, promote transparency and broad public participation and partnerships to implement sustainable development;

(i) Promote the review and stocktaking of progress in the implementation of all sustainable development commitments, including commitments related to means of implementation.

## **B. Strengthening intergovernmental arrangements for sustainable development**

77. We acknowledge the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent, reformed, strengthened and effective multilateral system in order to better address the urgent global challenges of sustainable development today, recognizing the universality and central role of the United Nations and reaffirming our commitment to promote and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system.

78. We underscore the need to strengthen United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination, while ensuring appropriate accountability to Member States, by, inter alia, enhancing coherence in reporting and reinforcing cooperative efforts under existing inter-agency mechanisms and strategies to advance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system, including through exchange of information among its agencies, funds and programmes, and also with the international financial institutions and other relevant organizations such as the World Trade Organization, within their respective mandates.

79. We emphasize the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development which should be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved; address the shortcomings of the current system; take into account all relevant implications; promote synergies and coherence; seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the United Nations system; and reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements.

### **General Assembly**

80. We reaffirm the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter.

81. We further reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. In this regard, we call for the Assembly to further integrate sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities and

adequately address sustainable development in its agenda-setting, including through periodic high-level dialogues.

### **Economic and Social Council**

82. We reaffirm that the Economic and Social Council is a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, and is a central mechanism for the coordination of the United Nations system and supervision of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, in particular its functional commissions, and for promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coherence and coordination. We also reaffirm the major role the Council plays in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and specialized agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities.

83. We commit to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its mandate under the Charter, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognize its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. We look forward to the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Council.

### **High-level political forum**

84. We decide to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

85. The high-level forum could:

(a) Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;

(b) Enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;

(c) Provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development;

(d) Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;

(e) Follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the outcome of the present Conference and, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcome of the Fourth

United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,<sup>29</sup> as well as their respective means of implementation;

(f) Encourage high-level system-wide participation of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invite to participate, as appropriate, other relevant multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with United Nations rules and provisions;

(g) Improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies;

(h) Promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to better make use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions;

(i) Promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned;

(j) Promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;

(k) Strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments;

(l) Enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthening ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries.

86. We decide to launch an intergovernmental and open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process under the General Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-level forum, with the aim of convening the first high-level forum at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly. We will also consider the need for promoting intergenerational solidarity for the achievement of sustainable development, taking into account the needs of future generations, including by inviting the Secretary-General to present a report on this issue.

### **C. Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development**

87. We reaffirm the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system.

88. We are committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. We reaffirm General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 establishing the United

<sup>29</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chaps. I and II.

Nations Environment Programme and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997<sup>30</sup> and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000.<sup>31</sup> In this regard, we invite the Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme in the following manner:

(a) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance as well as its responsiveness and accountability to Member States;

(b) Have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate;

(c) Enhance the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment;

(d) Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making;

(e) Disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information, and raise public awareness on critical, as well as emerging, environmental issues;

(f) Provide capacity-building to countries, as well as support, and facilitate access to technology;

(g) Progressively consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi, as well as strengthen its regional presence, in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies, collaborating closely with other relevant entities of the United Nations system;

(h) Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.

89. We recognize the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements. We acknowledge the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,<sup>32</sup> Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade<sup>33</sup> and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants<sup>34</sup>). We encourage parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further

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<sup>30</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25)*, annex, decision 19/1, annex.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/55/25)*, annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.

90. We stress the need for the continuation of a regular review of the state of the Earth's changing environment and its impact on human well-being, and in this regard we welcome such initiatives as the Global Environment Outlook process aimed at bringing together environmental information and assessments and building national and regional capacity to support informed decision-making.

#### **D. International financial institutions and United Nations operational activities**

91. We recognize that sustainable development should be given due consideration by the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant entities such as international financial institutions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective existing mandates. In this regard, we invite them to further enhance the mainstreaming of sustainable development in their respective mandates, programmes, strategies and decision-making processes, in support of the efforts of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the achievement of sustainable development.

92. We reaffirm the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and in this regard take note of recent important decisions on reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, and reiterate the importance of the reform of the governance of those institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

93. We call for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system, and request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in this regard. We also call for and recognize the importance of the strengthening of policy coordination within key structures of the Secretariat of the United Nations so as to ensure system-wide coherence in support of sustainable development, while ensuring accountability to Member States.

94. We invite the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system to consider appropriate measures for integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions across the operational activities of the United Nations system. We also emphasize that increasing the financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard we recognize the mutually reinforcing links among increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

95. We emphasize the need to strengthen operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the field that are well aligned with national sustainable

development priorities of developing countries. In this regard, we emphasize that the fundamental characteristics and principles of United Nations operational activities set forth in the relevant General Assembly resolutions provide the overarching framework for all matters pertaining to the United Nations development assistance operations in the field. We recognize the importance of strengthening United Nations system coordination. We look forward to receiving the outcome of the independent evaluation of the “Delivering as one” initiative.

96. We call upon the United Nations system to improve the management of facilities and operations, by taking into account sustainable development practices, building on existing efforts and promoting cost effectiveness, and in accordance with legislative frameworks, including financial rules and regulations, while maintaining accountability to Member States.

#### **E. Regional, national, subnational and local levels**

97. We acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development. Regional frameworks can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.

98. We encourage regional, national, subnational and local authorities, as appropriate, to develop and utilize sustainable development strategies as key instruments for guiding decision-making and implementation of sustainable development at all levels, and in this regard we recognize that integrated social, economic and environmental data and information, as well as effective analysis and assessment of implementation, are important in decision-making processes.

99. We encourage action at the regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate.

100. We emphasize that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions. We underscore the need to support these institutions, including through the United Nations system, in the effective operationalization and implementation of sustainable development, and to facilitate institutional coherence and harmonization of relevant development policies, plans and programmes. In this regard, we urge these institutions to prioritize sustainable development through, inter alia, more efficient and effective capacity-building, development and implementation of regional agreements and arrangements as appropriate, and exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned. We also welcome regional and cross-regional initiatives for sustainable development. We, furthermore, recognize the need to ensure effective linkage among global, regional, subregional and national processes to advance sustainable development. We encourage the enhancement of the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices in their respective capacities to support Member States in implementing sustainable development.

101. We underline the need for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national, subnational and local levels as appropriate, and to this end we call upon countries to strengthen national, subnational and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes, as appropriate, dealing with sustainable development, including to coordinate on matters of sustainable

development and to enable effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

102. We welcome regional and cross-regional initiatives for sustainable development, such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which is voluntary and open for participation by all partners.

103. We underscore the need to ensure long-term political commitment to sustainable development taking into account national circumstances and priorities, and in this regard we encourage all countries to undertake the necessary actions and measures to achieve sustainable development.

## **V. Framework for action and follow-up**

### **A. Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues**

104. We recognize that in order to achieve the objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, namely to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, as well as to address the themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development, we commit to address remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, to address new and emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities through the actions enumerated below in this framework for action, supported, as appropriate, through provision of means of implementation. We recognize that goals, targets and indicators, including, where appropriate, gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress. We further note that progress in the implementation of the actions stipulated below can be enhanced by voluntarily sharing information, knowledge and experience.

#### **Poverty eradication**

105. We recognize that, three years from the 2015 target date of the Millennium Development Goals, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in Africa.

106. We recognize that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we emphasize that national efforts of developing countries should be complemented by an enabling environment aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries. We also emphasize the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels.

107. We recognize that promoting universal access to social services can make an important contribution to consolidating and achieving development gains. Social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for eradicating poverty and advancing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we strongly encourage initiatives aimed at enhancing social protection for all people.



**Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture**

108. We reaffirm our commitments regarding the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. We acknowledge that food security and nutrition has become a pressing global challenge and, in this regard, we further reaffirm our commitment to enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations in line with the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, adopted on 16 November 2009,<sup>35</sup> including for children under the age of 2, and through, as appropriate, national, regional and global food security and nutrition strategies.

109. We recognize that a significant portion of the world's poor live in rural areas, and that rural communities play an important role in the economic development of many countries. We emphasize the need to revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors, notably in developing countries, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. We recognize the importance of taking the necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities by, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage. We reiterate the importance of empowering rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and nutrition. We also recognize the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, including for many indigenous peoples and local communities.

110. Noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, we resolve to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, including by improving the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development. Key areas for investment and support include sustainable agricultural practices; rural infrastructure, storage capacities and related technologies; research and development on sustainable agricultural technologies; development of strong agricultural cooperatives and value chains; and the strengthening of urban-rural linkages. We also recognize the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain.

111. We reaffirm the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also recognize the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems.

112. We stress the need to enhance sustainable livestock production systems, including by improving pasture land and irrigation schemes in line with national policies, legislation, rules and regulations, enhanced sustainable water management

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<sup>35</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

systems and efforts to eradicate and prevent the spread of animal diseases, recognizing that the livelihoods of farmers, including pastoralists, and the health of livestock are intertwined.

113. We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people.

114. We resolve to take action to enhance agricultural research, extension services, training and education to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability through the voluntary sharing of knowledge and good practices. We further resolve to improve access to information, technical knowledge and know-how, including through new information and communications technologies that empower farmers, fisherfolk and foresters to choose among diverse methods of achieving sustainable agricultural production. We call for the strengthening of international cooperation on agricultural research for development.

115. We reaffirm the important work and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security, including through its role in facilitating country-initiated assessments on sustainable food production and food security, and we encourage countries to give due consideration to implementing the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. We take note of the ongoing discussions on responsible agricultural investment in the framework of the Committee on World Food Security, as well as the principles for responsible agricultural investment.

116. We stress the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to high and excessively volatile prices in agricultural commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for smallholder farmers and poor urban dwellers.

117. We underline the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, and in this regard take note of the Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and urge the participating international organizations, private sector actors and governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products.

118. We reaffirm that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agricultural and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security. We urge national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, domestic, regional and international markets.

### **Water and sanitation**

119. We recognize that water is at the core of sustainable development as it is closely linked to a number of key global challenges. We therefore reiterate the importance of integrating water into sustainable development, and underline the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development.

120. We reaffirm the commitments made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration regarding halving by 2015 the

proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and the development of integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans, ensuring sustainable water use. We commit to the progressive realization of access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation for all, as necessary for poverty eradication, women's empowerment and to protect human health, and to significantly improve the implementation of integrated water resource management at all levels as appropriate. In this regard, we reiterate the commitments to support these efforts, in particular for developing countries, through the mobilization of resources from all sources, capacity-building and technology transfer.

121. We reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively realized for our populations, with full respect for national sovereignty. We also highlight our commitment to the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015.

122. We recognize the key role that ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and quality, and support actions within respective national boundaries to protect and sustainably manage these ecosystems.

123. We underline the need to adopt measures to address floods, droughts and water scarcity, addressing the balance between water supply and demand, including, where appropriate, non-conventional water resources, and to mobilize financial resources and investment in infrastructure for water and sanitation services, in accordance with national priorities.

124. We stress the need to adopt measures to significantly reduce water pollution and increase water quality, significantly improve wastewater treatment and water efficiency and reduce water losses. In order to achieve this, we stress the need for international assistance and cooperation.

### **Energy**

125. We recognize the critical role that energy plays in the development process, as access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps to provide for basic human needs. We stress that these services are essential to social inclusion and gender equality, and that energy is also a key input to production. We commit to facilitate support for access to these services by 1.4 billion people worldwide who are currently without them. We recognize that access to these services is critical for achieving sustainable development.

126. We emphasize the need to address the challenge of access to sustainable modern energy services for all, in particular for the poor, who are unable to afford these services even when they are available. We emphasize the need to take further action to improve this situation, including by mobilizing adequate financial resources, so as to provide these services in a reliable, affordable, economically viable and socially and environmentally acceptable manner in developing countries.

127. We reaffirm support for the implementation of national and subnational policies and strategies, based on individual national circumstances and development aspirations, using an appropriate energy mix to meet developmental needs, including through increased use of renewable energy sources and other low-emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources. We commit to promoting sustainable

modern energy services for all through national and subnational efforts, inter alia, on electrification and dissemination of sustainable cooking and heating solutions, including through collaborative actions to share best practices and adopt policies, as appropriate. We urge governments to create enabling environments that facilitate public and private sector investment in relevant and needed cleaner energy technologies.

128. We recognize that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development, including in addressing climate change. We also recognize the need for energy efficiency measures in urban planning, buildings and transportation and in the production of goods and services and the design of products. We also recognize the importance of promoting incentives in favour of, and removing disincentives to, energy efficiency and the diversification of the energy mix, including promoting research and development in all countries, including developing countries.

129. We note the launching of the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative by the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies. We are all determined to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality and, through this, help to eradicate poverty and lead to sustainable development and global prosperity. We recognize that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are of great importance and are prioritized according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix.

#### **Sustainable tourism**

130. We emphasize that well-designed and managed tourism can make a significant contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, has close linkages to other sectors and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities. We recognize the need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity, and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole. We call for enhanced support for sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building in developing countries in order to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

131. We encourage the promotion of investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism and cultural tourism, which may include creating small and medium-sized enterprises and facilitating access to finance, including through microcredit initiatives for the poor, indigenous peoples and local communities in areas with high ecotourism potential. In this regard, we underline the importance of establishing, where necessary, appropriate guidelines and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and supporting sustainable tourism.

#### **Sustainable transport**

132. We note that transportation and mobility are central to sustainable development. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth and improve accessibility. Sustainable transport achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable

transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and productivity of rural areas. In this regard, we take into account road safety as part of our efforts to achieve sustainable development.

133. We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy-efficient multimodal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas. We recognize the need to promote an integrated approach to policymaking at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development. We also recognize that the special development needs of landlocked and transit developing countries need to be taken into account while establishing sustainable transit transport systems. We acknowledge the need for international support to developing countries in this regard.

#### **Sustainable cities and human settlements**

134. We recognize that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. In this regard, we recognize the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration. We commit to work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility. We also recognize the need for conservation, as appropriate, of the natural and cultural heritage of human settlements, the revitalization of historic districts and the rehabilitation of city centres.

135. We commit to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including by supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making. We also commit to promote sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled; affordable and sustainable transport and energy; the promotion, protection and restoration of safe and green urban spaces; safe and clean drinking water and sanitation; healthy air quality; the generation of decent jobs; and improved urban planning and slum upgrading. We further support the sustainable management of waste through the application of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle). We underline the importance of considering disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate risks in urban planning. We recognize the efforts of cities to balance development with rural regions.

136. We emphasize the importance of increasing the number of metropolitan regions, cities and towns that are implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design in order to respond effectively to the expected growth of urban populations in the coming decades. We note that sustainable urban planning benefits from the involvement of multiple stakeholders as well as from full use of information and sex-disaggregated data, including on demographic trends, income distribution and informal settlements. We recognize the important role of municipal governments in setting a vision for sustainable cities, from the initiation of city planning through to revitalization of older cities and neighbourhoods, including by adopting energy efficiency programmes in building management and developing sustainable, locally appropriate transport systems. We further recognize the

importance of mixed-use planning and of encouraging non-motorized mobility, including by promoting pedestrian and cycling infrastructures.

137. We recognize that partnerships among cities and communities play an important role in promoting sustainable development. In this regard, we stress the need to strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and platforms, partnership arrangements and other implementation tools to advance the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda<sup>36</sup> with the active involvement of all relevant United Nations entities and with the overall aim of achieving sustainable urban development. We further recognize the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

### **Health and population**

138. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. We understand the goals of sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, and where populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being. We are convinced that action on the social and environmental determinants of health, both for the poor and the vulnerable and for the entire population, is important to create inclusive, equitable, economically productive and healthy societies. We call for the full realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

139. We also recognize the importance of universal health coverage to enhancing health, social cohesion and sustainable human and economic development. We pledge to strengthen health systems towards the provision of equitable universal coverage. We call for the involvement of all relevant actors for coordinated multisectoral action to address urgently the health needs of the world's population.

140. We emphasize that HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, polio and other communicable diseases remain serious global concerns, and we commit to redouble efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases.

141. We acknowledge that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitutes one of the major challenges for sustainable development in the twenty-first century. We commit to strengthen health systems towards the provision of equitable, universal coverage and promote affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support related to non-communicable diseases, especially cancer, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. We also commit to establish or strengthen multisectoral national policies for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. We recognize that reducing, inter alia, air, water and chemical pollution leads to positive effects on health.

142. We reaffirm the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS

<sup>36</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Agreement),<sup>37</sup> the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health,<sup>38</sup> the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration,<sup>39</sup> and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all and encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard.

143. We call for further collaboration and cooperation at the national and international levels to strengthen health systems through increased health financing, recruitment, development and training and retention of the health workforce, through improved distribution and access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines and medical technologies, and by improving health infrastructure. We support the leadership role of the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.

144. We commit to systematically consider population trends and projections in our national, rural and urban development strategies and policies. Through forward-looking planning, we can seize the opportunities and address the challenges associated with demographic change, including migration.

145. We call for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the outcomes of their review conferences, including the commitments leading to sexual and reproductive health and the promotion and protection of all human rights in this context. We emphasize the need for the provision of universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

146. We commit to reduce maternal and child mortality and to improve the health of women, youth and children. We reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and to protect the rights of women, men and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including access to sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence. We will work actively to ensure that health systems provide the necessary information and health services addressing the sexual and reproductive health of women, including by working towards universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning, as this is essential for women's health and advancing gender equality.

#### **Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection**

147. We recognize that poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration and protection are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that enabling environments to promote them need to be created at all levels.

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<sup>37</sup> See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

<sup>38</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(01)/DEC/2.

<sup>39</sup> See World Trade Organization, document WT/L/540 and Corr.1.

148. We are concerned about labour market conditions and widespread deficits of available decent work opportunities, especially for young women and men. We urge all governments to address the global challenge of youth employment by developing and implementing strategies and policies that provide young people everywhere access to decent and productive work, as over the coming decades, decent jobs will need to be created to be able to ensure sustainable and inclusive development and reduce poverty.

149. We recognize the importance of job creation by investing in and developing sound, effective and efficient economic and social infrastructure and productive capacities for sustainable development and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. We call upon countries to enhance infrastructure investment for sustainable development, and we agree to support United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to help to assist and promote the efforts of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in this regard.

150. We recognize the importance of job creation by adopting forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development.

151. We emphasize the need to enhance employment and income opportunities for all, especially for women and men living in poverty, and in this regard we support national efforts to provide new job opportunities to the poor in both rural and urban areas, including support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

152. We recognize that workers should have access to education, skills, health care, social security, fundamental rights at work, social and legal protections, including occupational safety and health, and decent work opportunities. Governments, trade unions, workers and employers all have a role to play in promoting decent work for all, and all should help young people to gain access to needed skills and employment opportunities, including in new and emerging sectors. Women and men should have equal access to opportunities to acquire job skills, as well as to worker protections. We recognize the importance of a just transition, including programmes to help workers to adjust to changing labour market conditions.

153. We also recognize that informal unpaid work, performed mostly by women, contributes substantially to human well-being and sustainable development. In this regard, we commit to work towards safe and decent working conditions and access to social protection and education.

154. We recognize that opportunities for decent work for all and job creation can be generated through, inter alia, public and private investments in scientific and technological innovation, public works in restoring, regenerating and conserving natural resources and ecosystems, and social and community services. We are encouraged by government initiatives to create jobs for poor people in restoring and managing natural resources and ecosystems, and we encourage the private sector to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and particularly for young people, including through partnerships with small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives. In this regard, we acknowledge 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.



155. We encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices on ways to address the high levels of unemployment and underemployment, in particular among young people.

156. We stress the need to provide social protection to all members of society, fostering growth, resilience, social justice and cohesion, including those who are not employed in the formal economy. In this regard, we strongly encourage national and local initiatives aimed at providing social protection floors for all citizens. We support global dialogue on best practices for social protection programmes that takes into account the three dimensions of sustainable development and, in this regard, we note International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection.

157. We call upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability.

### **Oceans and seas**

158. We recognize that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it, and that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>40</sup> provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. We stress the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change. We therefore commit to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

159. We recognize the importance of the Convention on the Law of the Sea to advancing sustainable development and its near universal adoption by States, and in this regard we urge all its parties to fully implement their obligations under the Convention.

160. We recognize the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard we emphasize the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental

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<sup>40</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology.<sup>41</sup>

161. We support the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, established under the auspices of the General Assembly, and look forward to the completion of its first global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment by 2014 and the subsequent consideration by the Assembly. We encourage consideration by States of the assessment findings at appropriate levels.

162. We recognize the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. We note the ongoing work under the auspices of the General Assembly of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. Building on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group and before the end of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, we commit to address, on an urgent basis, the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

163. We note with concern that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from a number of marine and land-based sources, including shipping and land run-off. We commit to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of such pollution on marine ecosystems, including through the effective implementation of relevant conventions adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization, and the follow-up of relevant initiatives such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,<sup>42</sup> as well as the adoption of coordinated strategies to this end. We further commit to take action to, by 2025, based on collected scientific data, achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment.

164. We note the significant threat that alien invasive species pose to marine ecosystems and resources, and commit to implement measures to prevent the introduction and manage the adverse environmental impacts of alien invasive species, including, as appropriate, those adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization.

165. We note that sea-level rise and coastal erosion are serious threats for many coastal regions and islands, particularly in developing countries, and in this regard we call upon the international community to enhance its efforts to address these challenges.

166. We call for support to initiatives that address ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and resources. In this regard, we reiterate the need to work collectively to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them, and to support marine scientific research,

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<sup>41</sup> See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/INF-1203.

<sup>42</sup> See A/51/116, annex II.

monitoring and observation of ocean acidification and particularly vulnerable ecosystems, including through enhanced international cooperation in this regard.

167. We stress our concern about the potential environmental impacts of ocean fertilization. In this regard, we recall the decisions related to ocean fertilization adopted by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, and resolve to continue addressing ocean fertilization with utmost caution, consistent with the precautionary approach.

168. We commit to intensify our efforts to meet the 2015 target as agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis. In this regard, we further commit to urgently take the measures necessary to maintain or restore all stocks at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, with the aim of achieving these goals in the shortest time feasible, as determined by their biological characteristics. To achieve this, we commit to urgently develop and implement science-based management plans, including by reducing or suspending fishing catch and fishing effort commensurate with the status of the stock. We further commit to enhance action to manage by-catch, discards and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices. We also commit to enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments. Such actions, including those through competent organizations, should be undertaken consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

169. We urge States parties to the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks<sup>43</sup> to fully implement that Agreement and to give, in accordance with Part VII of the Agreement, full recognition to the special requirements of developing States. Furthermore, we call upon all States to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries<sup>44</sup> and the international plans of action and technical guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

170. We acknowledge that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing deprive many countries of a crucial natural resource and remain a persistent threat to their sustainable development. We recommit to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as advanced in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to prevent and combat these practices, including by the following: developing and implementing national and regional action plans in accordance with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; implementing, in accordance with international law, effective and coordinated measures by coastal States, flag States, port States, chartering nations and the States of nationality of the beneficial owners and others who support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by identifying vessels engaged in such fishing and by depriving offenders of the benefits accruing from it; as well as cooperating

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<sup>43</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, No. 37924.

<sup>44</sup> *International Fisheries Instruments with Index* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.

with developing countries to systematically identify needs and build capacity, including support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems.

171. We call upon States that have signed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing<sup>45</sup> to expedite procedures for its ratification with a view to its early entry into force.

172. We recognize the need for transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations. We recognize the efforts already made by those regional fisheries management organizations that have undertaken independent performance reviews, and call upon all regional fisheries management organizations to regularly undertake such reviews and make the results publicly available. We encourage implementation of the recommendations of such reviews and recommend that the comprehensiveness of those reviews be strengthened over time, as necessary.

173. We reaffirm our commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overcapacity, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries, and we reiterate our commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies that will give effect to the mandates of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda<sup>46</sup> and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration<sup>47</sup> to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation, taking into account the importance of the sector to development priorities, poverty reduction and livelihood and food security concerns. We encourage States to further improve the transparency and reporting of existing fisheries subsidies programmes through the World Trade Organization. Given the state of fisheries resources, and without prejudicing the Doha and Hong Kong ministerial mandates on fisheries subsidies or the need to conclude these negotiations, we encourage States to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and to refrain from introducing new such subsidies or from extending or enhancing existing ones.

174. We urge the identification and mainstreaming by 2014 of strategies that further assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, including through improved market access for fish products from developing countries.

175. We commit to observe the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets, by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk and women fish workers, as well as indigenous peoples and their communities, particularly in developing countries, especially small island developing States.

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<sup>45</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-sixth Session, Rome, 18–23 November 2009* (C 2009/REP and Corr.1–3), appendix E.

<sup>46</sup> See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

<sup>47</sup> World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC.

176. We also recognize the significant economic, social and environmental contributions of coral reefs, in particular to islands and other coastal States, as well as the significant vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves to impacts, including from climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution. We support international cooperation with a view to conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing.

177. We reaffirm the importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information, as a tool for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. We note decision X/2 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, that, by 2020, 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.<sup>48</sup>

#### **Small island developing States**

178. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters. We note with concern that the outcome of the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy<sup>49</sup> concluded that small island developing States have made less progress than most other groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability. Sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including for some through the loss of territory. We also remain concerned that, while small island developing States have progressed in the areas of gender, health, education and the environment, their overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven.

179. We call for continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. We also call for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by these States in achieving sustainable development.

180. Building on the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, we call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States, recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, and we invite the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to determine the modalities of the conference.

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<sup>48</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

<sup>49</sup> See resolution 65/2.

**Least developed countries**

181. We agree to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the present framework for action, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.

**Landlocked developing countries**

182. We invite Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the declaration on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, in a better coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to support the sustainable development of landlocked developing countries.

**Africa**

183. While we acknowledge that some progress has been made towards the fulfilment of international commitments related to Africa's development needs, we emphasize that significant challenges remain in achieving sustainable development on the continent.

184. We call upon the international community to enhance support and fulfil commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development, and welcome the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development. We also welcome the progress made by African countries in deepening democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourage African countries to continue their efforts in this regard. We invite all Africa's development partners, in particular developed countries, to support African countries in strengthening human capacities and democratic institutions, consistent with their priorities and objectives, with a view to furthering Africa's development at all levels, including by facilitating the transfer of technology needed by African countries as mutually agreed. We recognize the continued efforts by African countries to create enabling environments for inclusive growth in support of sustainable development and the need for the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support these development efforts by African countries, and welcome the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard.

**Regional efforts**

185. We encourage coordinated regional actions to promote sustainable development. We recognize, in this regard, that important steps have been taken to promote sustainable development, in particular in the Arab region, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific region, through relevant forums, including within the United Nations regional commissions. While noting that challenges remain in several areas, the international community welcomes these efforts, and the

results already achieved, and calls for actions at all levels for their further development and implementation.

### **Disaster risk reduction**

186. We reaffirm our commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>50</sup> and call for States, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, subregional, regional and international organizations and civil society to accelerate implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the achievement of its goals. We call for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks. We invite governments at all levels, as well as relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, to commit to adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities.

187. We recognize the importance of early warning systems as part of effective disaster risk reduction at all levels in order to reduce economic and social damages, including the loss of human life, and in this regard encourage States to integrate such systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. We encourage donors and the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of disaster risk reduction in developing countries, as appropriate, through technical assistance, technology transfer as mutually agreed, capacity-building and training programmes. We further recognize the importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and knowledge- and information-sharing, including reliable geospatial information. We commit to undertake and strengthen in a timely manner risk assessment and disaster risk reduction instruments.

188. We stress the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning, and call for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions, in order to reduce risk, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recovery and development. In this regard, we recognize the need to integrate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk management.

189. We call for all relevant stakeholders, including governments, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and civil society, to take appropriate and effective measures, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, including by strengthening coordination and cooperation to reduce exposure to risk for the protection of people, and infrastructure and other national assets, from the impact of disasters, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and any post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

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<sup>50</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

## Climate change

190. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

191. We underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2° C, or 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels. We recognize the importance of mobilizing funding from a variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including innovative sources of finance, to support nationally appropriate mitigation actions, adaptation measures, technology development and transfer and capacity-building in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the launching of the Green Climate Fund, and call for its prompt operationalization so as to have an early and adequate replenishment process.

192. We urge parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and parties to the Kyoto Protocol thereto<sup>51</sup> to fully implement their commitments, as well as decisions adopted under those agreements. In this regard, we will build upon the progress achieved, including at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

## Forests

193. We highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contributions of sustainable forest management to the themes and objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. We support cross-sectoral and cross-institutional policies promoting sustainable forest management. We reaffirm that the wide range of products and services that forests provide creates opportunities to address many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges. We call for enhanced efforts to achieve the sustainable management of forests, reforestation, restoration and afforestation, and we support all efforts that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including promoting trade in legally harvested forest products. We note

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<sup>51</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2303, No. 30822.



the importance of such ongoing initiatives as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. We call for increased efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,<sup>52</sup> in order to achieve sustainable forest management. To this end, we commit to improving the livelihoods of people and communities by creating the conditions needed for them to sustainably manage forests, including by strengthening cooperation arrangements in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and governance, as well as by promoting secure land tenure, particularly with regard to decision-making and benefit-sharing, in accordance with national legislation and priorities.

194. We call for urgent implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests.<sup>53</sup>

195. We recognize that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate, plays a vital role in addressing forest-related issues in a holistic and integrated manner and promoting international policy coordination and cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management. We invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue its support to the Forum and encourage stakeholders to remain actively engaged in the work of the Forum.

196. We stress the importance of integrating sustainable forest management objectives and practices into the mainstream of economic policy and decision-making, and to that end we commit to working through the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to integrate, as appropriate, the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies and programmes.

### **Biodiversity**

197. We reaffirm the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being. We recognize the severity of the global loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems, and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water and the health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. This highlights the importance of the conservation of biodiversity, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. We recognize that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often the most directly

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<sup>52</sup> Resolution 62/98, annex.

<sup>53</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 22 (E/2011/42)*, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I; see also decision 66/543.

dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are often the most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

198. We reiterate our commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and call for urgent actions that effectively reduce the rate of, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity. In this context, we affirm the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting.<sup>48</sup>

199. We note the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>48</sup> and we invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ratify or accede to the Protocol, so as to ensure its entry into force at the earliest possible opportunity. We acknowledge the role of access and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.

200. We welcome the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the commitment to substantially increasing resources from all sources in support of biodiversity, in accordance with decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

201. We support mainstreaming the consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities. We encourage investments, through appropriate incentives and policies, which support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems, consistent and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international obligations.

202. We agree to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature.

203. We recognize the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>54</sup> an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development, promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should contribute to tangible benefits for local people and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction. We recognize the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides. In this regard, we emphasize the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. We further stress the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria.

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<sup>54</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

204. We take note of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and invite an early commencement of its work in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers.

#### **Desertification, land degradation and drought**

205. We recognize the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability. We stress that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries. We also stress the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries. In this regard, we express deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and call for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels.

206. We recognize the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation. In view of this, we will strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development. This should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources.

207. We reaffirm our resolve, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to take coordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally, to monitor, globally, land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. We resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008–2018),<sup>55</sup> including by mobilizing adequate, predictable and timely financial resources. We note the importance of mitigating the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought, including by preserving and developing oases, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality and improving water management, in order to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this regard, we encourage and recognize the importance of partnerships and initiatives for the safeguarding of land resources. We also encourage capacity-building, extension training programmes and scientific studies and initiatives aimed at deepening understanding and raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management policies and practices.

208. We stress the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research and strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. In this respect, we take note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth session, held in Changwon City, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 21 October 2011, to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into account

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<sup>55</sup> A/C.2/62/7, annex.

regional balance, to discuss specific options for the provision of scientific advice to its parties.<sup>56</sup>

209. We reiterate the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels. In this regard, we invite States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems.

### **Mountains**

210. We recognize that the benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development. Mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing water resources to a large portion of the world's population; fragile mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, deforestation and forest degradation, land use change, land degradation and natural disasters; and mountain glaciers around the world are retreating and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment and human well-being.

211. We further recognize that mountains are often home to communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities, that have developed sustainable uses of mountain resources. These communities are, however, often marginalized, and we therefore stress that continued effort will be required to address poverty, food security and nutrition, social exclusion and environmental degradation in these areas. We invite States to strengthen cooperative action with effective involvement and sharing of experience of all relevant stakeholders, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate.

212. We call for greater efforts towards the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity. We encourage States to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches, including by incorporating mountain-specific policies into national sustainable development strategies, which could include, inter alia, poverty reduction plans and programmes for mountain areas, particularly in developing countries. In this regard, we call for international support for sustainable mountain development in developing countries.

### **Chemicals and waste**

213. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. We further recognize that growing global production and use of chemicals and their prevalence in the environment calls for increased international cooperation. We reaffirm our aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We also reaffirm our commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste, at all levels, that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and

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<sup>56</sup> See ICCD/COP(10)/31/Add.1, decision 20/COP.10.

challenges, and encourage further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments.

214. We call for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management<sup>57</sup> as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, including to respond to emerging challenges.

215. We are deeply concerned that many countries, in particular the least developed countries, lack the capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles. Additional efforts are needed to enhance work towards strengthening capacities, including through partnerships, technical assistance and improved governance structures. We encourage countries and organizations which have made progress towards achieving the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 to assist other countries by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices.

216. We commend the increased coordination and cooperation among chemical and waste conventions, namely the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and encourage continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among them and with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. We take note of the important role of the regional and coordinating centres of the Basel Convention and of those of the Stockholm Convention.

217. We commend existing public-private partnerships, and call for continued, new and innovative public-private partnerships among industry, governments, academia and other non-governmental stakeholders, aiming to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound chemicals and waste management, including for waste prevention.

218. We recognize the importance of adopting a life-cycle approach and of further development and implementation of policies for resource efficiency and environmentally sound waste management. We therefore commit to further reduce, reuse and recycle waste (the 3Rs) and to increase energy recovery from waste, with a view to managing the majority of global waste in an environmentally sound manner and, where possible, as a resource. Solid wastes, such as electronic waste and plastics, pose particular challenges, which should be addressed. We call for the development and enforcement of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations.

219. We urge countries and other stakeholders to take all possible measures to prevent the unsound management of hazardous wastes and their illegal dumping, particularly in countries where the capacity to deal with these wastes is limited, in a manner consistent with the obligations of countries under relevant international instruments. In this context, we welcome the relevant decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 17 to 21 October 2011.<sup>58</sup>

220. We recognize the importance of science-based assessments of the risks posed by chemicals to human beings and the environment and of reducing human and environmental exposure to hazardous chemicals. We encourage the development of

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<sup>57</sup> See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I–III.

<sup>58</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CHW.10/28, annex I.

environmentally sound and safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products and processes. To this end, we encourage, inter alia, life-cycle assessment, public information, extended producer responsibility, research and development, sustainable design and knowledge-sharing, as appropriate.

221. We welcome the ongoing negotiating process on a global legally binding instrument on mercury to address the risks to human health and the environment, and call for a successful outcome to the negotiations.

222. We recognize that the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and release of high global warming potential hydrofluorocarbons to the environment. We support a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.

223. We acknowledge that sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element for the sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste, initiated to consider the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to sound management of chemicals and waste, and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and waste agenda. We look forward to the forthcoming proposals by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management and at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which will be held in Nairobi, from 18 to 22 February 2013.

#### **Sustainable consumption and production**

224. We recall the commitments made in the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on sustainable consumption and production and, in particular, the request in chapter III of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to encourage and promote the development of a ten-year framework of programmes. We recognize that fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development.

225. Countries reaffirm the commitments they have made to phase out harmful and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and undermine sustainable development. We invite others to consider rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by removing market distortions, including restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, with such policies taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries, with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development and in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

226. We adopt the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns,<sup>59</sup> and highlight the fact that the programmes included in the framework are voluntary. We invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to designate a Member State body to take any necessary steps to fully operationalize the framework.

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<sup>59</sup> A/CONF.216/5, annex.

**Mining**

227. We acknowledge that minerals and metals make a major contribution to the world economy and modern societies. We note that mining industries are important to all countries with mineral resources, in particular developing countries. We also note that mining offers the opportunity to catalyse broad-based economic development, reduce poverty and assist countries in meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, when managed effectively and properly. We acknowledge that countries have the sovereign right to develop their mineral resources according to their national priorities and a responsibility regarding the exploitation of resources, as described in the Rio Principles. We further acknowledge that mining activities should maximize social and economic benefits, as well as effectively address negative environmental and social impacts. In this regard, we recognize that governments need strong capacities to develop, manage and regulate their mining industries, in the interest of sustainable development.

228. We recognize the importance of strong and effective legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and practices for the mining sector that deliver economic and social benefits and include effective safeguards that reduce social and environmental impacts, as well as conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, including during post-mining closure. We call upon governments and businesses to promote the continuous improvement of accountability and transparency, as well as the effectiveness of the relevant existing mechanisms to prevent illicit financial flows from mining activities.

**Education**

229. We reaffirm our commitments to the right to education, and in this regard we commit to strengthen international cooperation to achieve universal access to primary education, particularly for developing countries. We further reaffirm that full access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as human development, for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of both women and men, in particular young people. In this regard, we stress the need for ensuring equal access to education for persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local communities, ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas.

230. We recognize that the younger generations are the custodians of the future, and the need for better quality and access to education beyond the primary level. We therefore resolve to improve the capacity of our education systems to prepare people to pursue sustainable development, including through enhanced teacher training, the development of sustainability curricula, the development of training programmes that prepare students for careers in fields related to sustainability, and more effective use of information and communications technologies to enhance learning outcomes. We call for enhanced cooperation among schools, communities and authorities in efforts to promote access to quality education at all levels.

231. We encourage Member States to promote sustainable development awareness among youth, inter alia by promoting programmes for non-formal education in accordance with the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014).

232. We emphasize the importance of greater international cooperation to improve access to education, including by building and strengthening education infrastructure and increasing investment in education, particularly investment to improve the quality of education for all in developing countries. We encourage international educational exchanges and partnerships, including the creation of fellowships and scholarships to help to achieve global education goals.

233. We resolve to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

234. We strongly encourage educational institutions to consider adopting good practices in sustainability management on their campuses and in their communities, with the active participation of, inter alia, students, teachers and local partners, and teaching sustainable development as an integrated component across disciplines.

235. We underscore the importance of supporting educational institutions, especially higher educational institutions in developing countries, to carry out research and innovation for sustainable development, including in the field of education, and to develop quality and innovative programmes, including entrepreneurship and business skills training, professional, technical and vocational training and lifelong learning, geared to bridging skills gaps for advancing national sustainable development objectives.

#### **Gender equality and women's empowerment**

236. We reaffirm the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, and decide to accelerate the implementation of our respective commitments in this regard as contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>60</sup> as well as Agenda 21, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

237. We recognize that, although progress on gender equality has been made in some areas, the potential of women to engage in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development as leaders, participants and agents of change has not been fully realized, owing to, inter alia, persistent social, economic and political inequalities. We support prioritizing measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of our societies, including the removal of barriers to their full and equal participation in decision-making and management at all levels, and we emphasize the impact of setting specific targets and implementing temporary measures, as appropriate, for substantially increasing the number of women in leadership positions, with the aim of achieving gender parity.

238. We resolve to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development, including through the repeal of discriminatory laws and the removal of formal barriers, ensuring equal access to justice and legal support, the reform of institutions to ensure competence and capacity for gender mainstreaming and the development and adoption of innovative and special approaches to address informal, harmful practices that act as barriers to gender equality. In this regard, we commit to creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of women and girls

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<sup>60</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.



everywhere, particularly in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

239. We commit to actively promote the collection, analysis and use of gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data in policy, programme design and monitoring frameworks, in accordance with national circumstances and capacities, in order to deliver on the promise of sustainable development for all.

240. We are committed to equal rights and opportunities for women in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation and to removing any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy. We resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology.

241. We are committed to promote the equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, economic opportunities and health-care services, including addressing women's sexual and reproductive health, and ensuring universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

242. We recognize that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development.

243. We support the work of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in promoting and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of life, including with respect to the linkages between gender equality and women's empowerment and the promotion of sustainable development. We support the work of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in this regard.

244. We invite donors and international organizations, including the United Nations system organizations, as well as the international financial institutions, regional banks and major groups, including the private sector, to integrate fully commitments and considerations on gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure the participation of women and effective gender mainstreaming in their decision-making and full programming cycle. We invite them to play a supportive role in the efforts of developing countries to integrate fully commitments and considerations on gender equality and women's empowerment and ensure the participation of women and effective gender mainstreaming in their decision-making, programme planning, budgeting and implementation, in accordance with national legislation, priorities and capacities.

## **B. Sustainable development goals**

245. We underscore that the Millennium Development Goals are a useful tool in focusing achievement of specific development gains as part of a broad development vision and framework for the development activities of the United Nations, for national priority-setting and for mobilization of stakeholders and resources towards common goals. We therefore remain firmly committed to their full and timely achievement.

246. We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. We further recognize the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals, based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which fully respect all the Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, are consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the present outcome document. The goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages. They should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and serving as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

247. We also underscore that sustainable development goals should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We also recognize that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, being guided by the present outcome document. Governments should drive implementation with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

248. We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. An open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise thirty representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographical representation. At the outset, this open working group will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action.

249. The process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda. The initial input to the work of the working group will be provided by the Secretary-General, in consultation with national Governments. In order to provide technical support to the process and to the work of the working group, we request the Secretary-General to ensure all necessary input and support to this work from the United Nations system, including by establishing an inter-agency technical support team and expert panels, as needed, drawing on all relevant expert advice. Reports on the progress of work will be made regularly to the General Assembly.

250. We recognize that progress towards the achievement of the goals needs to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development.

251. We recognize that there is a need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development. In this regard, we request the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort. We further commit to mobilizing financial resources and capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, to achieve this endeavour.

## **VI. Means of implementation**

252. We reaffirm that the means of implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development are indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes. We reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. We reaffirm that developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to promote sustainable development. We acknowledge 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 and hunger.

### **A. Finance**

253. We call upon all countries to prioritize sustainable development in the allocation of resources in accordance with national priorities and needs, and we recognize the crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources for sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries. We recognize the importance of international, regional and national financial mechanisms, including those accessible to subnational and local authorities, to the implementation of sustainable development programmes, and call for their strengthening and implementation. New partnerships and innovative sources of financing can play a role in complementing sources of financing for sustainable development. We encourage their further exploration and use, alongside the traditional means of implementation.

254. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to give strong support to developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development, including through actions undertaken in accordance with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and for achieving sustainable development goals.

255. We agree to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly, with technical support from the United Nations system and in open and broad consultation with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The process will assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to

facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

256. An intergovernmental committee, comprising thirty experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, will implement this process, concluding its work by 2014.

257. We request the General Assembly to consider the report of the intergovernmental committee and take appropriate action.

258. We recognize that the fulfilment of all commitments related to official development assistance 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, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries. To reach their agreed timetables, donor countries should take all necessary and appropriate measures to raise the rate of aid disbursements in order to meet their existing commitments. We urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make additional concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries, including the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, in accordance with their commitments. To build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively, we stress the importance of democratic governance, improved transparency and accountability, and managing for results. We strongly encourage all donors to establish, as soon as possible, rolling indicative timetables that illustrate how they aim to reach their goals, in accordance with their respective budget allocation process. We stress the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support in developed countries towards the fulfilment of their commitments, including by raising public awareness, providing data on the development impact of aid provided and demonstrating tangible results.

259. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency, and in this regard we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. We will further make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term. We recognize the importance of efforts by developing countries to strengthen leadership of their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered.

260. We note that the aid architecture has changed significantly in the current decade. New aid providers and novel partnership approaches, which utilize new modalities of cooperation, have contributed to increasing the flow of resources. Further, the interplay of development assistance with private investment, trade and new development actors provides new opportunities for aid to leverage private resource flows. We reiterate our support for South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, which provide much-needed additional resources to the

implementation of development programmes. We recognize the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and stress that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity and cooperation between countries, based on their shared experiences and objectives. Both forms of cooperation support a development agenda that addresses the particular needs and expectations of developing countries. We also recognize that South-South cooperation complements rather than substitutes for North-South cooperation. We acknowledge the role played by middle-income developing countries as providers and recipients of development cooperation.

261. We invite the international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue providing financial resources, including through specific mechanisms for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty eradication in developing countries.

262. We recognize that greater coherence and coordination among the various funding mechanisms and initiatives related to sustainable development are crucial. We reiterate the importance of ensuring that developing countries have steady and predictable access to adequate financing from all sources to promote sustainable development.

263. We recognize that ongoing serious global financial and economic challenges carry the possibility of undoing years of hard work and gains made in relation to the debt of developing countries. We further recognize the need to assist developing countries in ensuring long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate.

264. We stress the need for adequate funding for the operational activities of the United Nations development system, as well as the need to make funding more predictable, effective and efficient as part of wider efforts to mobilize new, additional and predictable resources to achieve the objectives that we have set forth in the present outcome document.

265. We recognize the important achievements of the Global Environment Facility over the past twenty years in funding environmental projects and welcome important reform processes that the Facility has carried out during recent years, and we call for its further improvement and encourage the Facility to take additional steps, within its mandate, to make resources more accessible to meet country needs for the national implementation of their international environmental commitments. We support further simplification of procedures and assistance to developing countries, in particular in assisting the least developed countries, Africa and small island developing States in accessing resources from the Facility, and enhanced coordination with other instruments and programmes focusing on environmentally sustainable development.

266. We stress that fighting corruption and illicit financial flows at both the national and international levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation, and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and sustainable development. We are determined to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all its manifestations, which requires strong institutions at all levels, and urge all States that have not yet done so to consider

ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>61</sup> and begin its implementation.

267. We consider that innovative financing mechanisms can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis. Such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing. While recognizing the considerable progress in innovative sources of financing for development, we call for a scaling-up of present initiatives, where appropriate.

268. We recognize that a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially and environmentally responsible private sector is a valuable instrument that can offer a crucial contribution to economic growth and reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. In order to foster private sector development, we shall continue to pursue appropriate national policy and regulatory frameworks in a manner consistent with national laws to encourage public and private initiatives, including at the local level, to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, and to facilitate entrepreneurship and innovation, including among women, the poor and the vulnerable. We will work to improve income growth and distribution, inter alia, by raising productivity, empowering women, protecting labour rights and taxation. We recognize that the appropriate role of government in relation to the promotion and regulation of the private sector will vary from country to country, depending on national circumstances.

## **B. Technology**

269. We emphasize the importance of technology transfer to developing countries, and recall the provisions on technology transfer, finance, access to information and intellectual property rights as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular its call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. We also take note of the further evolution of discussions and agreements on these issues since the adoption of the Plan of Implementation.

270. We stress the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise. We further stress the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development. We agree to explore modalities in the relevant forums for enhanced access to environmentally sound technologies by developing countries.

271. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, dissemination and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In this context, we note the role of foreign direct investment, international trade and international cooperation in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. We engage in our countries as well as through international cooperation to promote investment in science, innovation and technology for sustainable development.

272. We recognize the importance of strengthened national, scientific and technological capacities for sustainable development. This can help countries, especially developing countries, to develop their own innovative solutions,

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

scientific research and new, environmentally sound technologies, with the support of the international community. To this end, we support building science and technology capacity, with both women and men as contributors and beneficiaries, including through collaboration among research institutions, universities, the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations and scientists.

273. We request relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing the technology needs of developing countries, options to address those needs and capacity-building. We request the Secretary-General, on the basis of the options identified and taking into account existing models, to make recommendations regarding the facilitation mechanism to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

274. We recognize the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations. In this context, we note the relevance of global mapping, and recognize the efforts in developing global environmental observing systems, including by the Eye on Earth network and through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. We recognize the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data.

275. We recognize the importance of strengthening international, regional and national capacities in research and technology assessment, especially in view of the rapid development and possible deployment of new technologies that may also have unintended negative impacts, in particular on biodiversity and health, or other unforeseen consequences.

276. We recognize the need to facilitate informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and, in this regard, to strengthen the science-policy interface.

### **C. Capacity-building**

277. We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. We reiterate the importance of human resource development, including training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.

278. We call for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme.<sup>62</sup>

279. We encourage the participation and representation of men and women scientists and researchers from developing and developed countries in processes related to global environmental and sustainable development assessment and monitoring, with the purpose of enhancing national capabilities and the quality of research for policy- and decision-making processes.

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<sup>62</sup> UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

280. We invite all relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries and, in particular, the least developed countries in capacity-building for developing resource-efficient and inclusive economies, including by:

- (a) Sharing sustainable practices in various economic sectors;
- (b) Enhancing knowledge and capacity to integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience into development plans;
- (c) Supporting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for the transition to a resource-efficient economy;
- (d) Promoting public-private partnerships.

#### **D. Trade**

281. We reaffirm that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirm the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development. In this context, we remain focused on achieving progress in addressing a set of important issues, such as, inter alia, trade-distorting subsidies and trade in environmental goods and services.

282. We urge the members of the World Trade Organization to redouble their efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda, while respecting the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and consensual decision-making, with a view to strengthening the multilateral trading system. In order to effectively participate in the work programme of the World Trade Organization and fully realize trade opportunities, developing countries need the assistance and enhanced cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

#### **E. Registry of commitments**

283. We welcome the commitments voluntarily entered into at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and throughout 2012 by all stakeholders and their networks to implement concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication. We invite the Secretary-General to compile these commitments and facilitate access to other registries that have compiled commitments, in an Internet-based registry. The registry should make information about the commitments fully transparent and accessible to the public, and it should be periodically updated.





# General Assembly

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Agenda items 15 and 116

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.1)]

### 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the following outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda:

### Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

#### Preamble

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.



***People***

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

***Planet***

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

***Prosperity***

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

***Peace***

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

***Partnership***

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.

## **Declaration**

### **Introduction**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015 as the Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary, have decided today on new global Sustainable Development Goals.

2. On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We are committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner. We will also build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business.

3. We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We resolve also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.

4. As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

5. This is an Agenda of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development.

6. The Goals and targets are the result of over two years of intensive public consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world, which paid particular attention to the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable. This consultation included valuable work done by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and by the United Nations, whose Secretary-General provided a synthesis report in December 2014.

### **Our vision**

7. In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with universal literacy. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and

where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

8. We envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity. A world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

9. We envisage a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas – are sustainable. One in which democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. One in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected.

### **Our shared principles and commitments**

10. The new Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration<sup>2</sup> and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.<sup>3</sup> It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.<sup>4</sup>

11. We reaffirm the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and have helped to shape the new Agenda. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>5</sup> the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>6</sup> the Beijing Platform for Action<sup>7</sup> and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. We also reaffirm the follow-up to these conferences, including the outcomes of the Fourth United

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>7</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

12. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

13. The challenges and commitments identified at these major conferences and summits are interrelated and call for integrated solutions. To address them effectively, a new approach is needed. Sustainable development recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent.

### **Our world today**

14. We are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern. Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiralling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. Natural resource depletion and adverse impacts of environmental degradation, including desertification, drought, land degradation, freshwater scarcity and loss of biodiversity, add to and exacerbate the list of challenges which humanity faces. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. Increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States. The survival of many societies, and of the biological support systems of the planet, is at risk.

15. It is also, however, a time of immense opportunity. Significant progress has been made in meeting many development challenges. Within the past generation, hundreds of millions of people have emerged from extreme poverty. Access to education has greatly increased for both boys and girls. The spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy.

16. Almost 15 years ago, the Millennium Development Goals were agreed. These provided an important framework for development and significant progress has been made in a number of areas. But the progress has been uneven, particularly in Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and some of the Millennium Development Goals remain off-track, in particular those related to maternal, newborn and child health and to reproductive health. We recommit ourselves to the full realization of all the Millennium Development Goals, including the off-track Millennium Development Goals, in particular by providing focused and scaled-up assistance to least

developed countries and other countries in special situations, in line with relevant support programmes. The new Agenda builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete what they did not achieve, particularly in reaching the most vulnerable.

17. In its scope, however, the framework we are announcing today goes far beyond the Millennium Development Goals. Alongside continuing development priorities such as poverty eradication, health, education and food security and nutrition, it sets out a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives. It also promises more peaceful and inclusive societies. It also, crucially, defines means of implementation. Reflecting the integrated approach that we have decided on, there are deep interconnections and many cross-cutting elements across the new Goals and targets.

### **The new Agenda**

18. We are announcing today 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavour across such a broad and universal policy agenda. We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world. We reaffirm that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law.

19. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

20. Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality education, economic resources and political participation as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels. We will work for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional and national levels. All forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls will be eliminated, including through the engagement of men and boys. The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial.

21. The new Goals and targets will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and will guide the decisions we take over the next 15 years. All of us will work to implement the Agenda within our own countries and at the regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We will respect national policy space for

sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing States, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. We acknowledge also the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. Regional and subregional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.

22. Each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries.

23. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80 per cent live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. We resolve to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism.

24. We are committed to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including by eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. All people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through social protection systems. We are also determined to end hunger and to achieve food security as a matter of priority and to end all forms of malnutrition. In this regard, we reaffirm the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security and welcome the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action.<sup>8</sup> We will devote resources to developing rural areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries, supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly least developed countries.

25. We commit to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training. All people, irrespective of sex, age, race or ethnicity, and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society. We will strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend, including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families.

26. To promote physical and mental health and well-being, and to extend life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all such preventable deaths before 2030. We are committed to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education. We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, Ebola and other communicable diseases and epidemics, including by addressing growing anti-microbial resistance

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<sup>8</sup> World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annexes I and II.

and the problem of unattended diseases affecting developing countries. We are committed to the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development.

27. We will seek to build strong economic foundations for all our countries. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is essential for prosperity. This will only be possible if wealth is shared and income inequality is addressed. We will work to build dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment, in particular, and decent work for all. We will eradicate forced labour and human trafficking and end child labour in all its forms. All countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society. We will strengthen the productive capacities of least developed countries in all sectors, including through structural transformation. We will adopt policies which increase productive capacities, productivity and productive employment; financial inclusion; sustainable agriculture, pastoralist and fisheries development; sustainable industrial development; universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services; sustainable transport systems; and quality and resilient infrastructure.

28. We commit to making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services. Governments, international organizations, the business sector and other non-State actors and individuals must contribute to changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including through the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance to strengthen developing countries' scientific, technological and innovative capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. We encourage the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. All countries take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

29. We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.

30. States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

31. We acknowledge that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>9</sup> is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. We are determined to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation. The global nature of

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<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.



climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

32. Looking ahead to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris, we underscore the commitment of all States to work for an ambitious and universal climate agreement. We reaffirm that the protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties shall address in a balanced manner, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building; and transparency of action and support.

33. We recognize that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources. We are therefore determined to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife. We are also determined to promote sustainable tourism, to tackle water scarcity and water pollution, to strengthen cooperation on desertification, dust storms, land degradation and drought and to promote resilience and disaster risk reduction. In this regard, we look forward to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Mexico.

34. We recognize that sustainable urban development and management are crucial to the quality of life of our people. We will work with local authorities and communities to renew and plan our cities and human settlements so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment. We will reduce the negative impacts of urban activities and of chemicals which are hazardous for human health and the environment, including through the environmentally sound management and safe use of chemicals, the reduction and recycling of waste and the more efficient use of water and energy. And we will work to minimize the impact of cities on the global climate system. We will also take account of population trends and projections in our national rural and urban development strategies and policies. We look forward to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in Quito.

35. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including through ensuring that women have a role in peacebuilding and State-building. We call for further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.

36. We pledge to foster intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility. We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

37. Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.

38. We reaffirm, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

### **Means of implementation**

39. The scale and ambition of the new Agenda requires a revitalized Global Partnership to ensure its implementation. We fully commit to this. This Partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources.

40. The means of implementation targets under Goal 17 and under each Sustainable Development Goal are key to realizing our Agenda and are of equal importance with the other Goals and targets. The Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, supported by the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. We welcome the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,<sup>10</sup> which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We recognize that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

41. We recognize that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. The new Agenda deals with the means required for implementation of the Goals and targets. We recognize that these will include the mobilization of financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. Public finance, both domestic and international, will play a vital role in providing essential services and public goods and in catalysing other sources of finance. We acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda.

42. We support the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>11</sup> the SIDS

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<sup>10</sup> The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015 (resolution 69/313, annex).

<sup>11</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chaps. I and II.

Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>12</sup> and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,<sup>13</sup> and reaffirm the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>14</sup> all of which are integral to the new Agenda. We recognize the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

43. We emphasize that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. An important use of international public finance, including official development assistance (ODA), is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private. ODA providers reaffirm their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.

44. We acknowledge the importance for international financial institutions to support, in line with their mandates, the policy space of each country, in particular developing countries. We recommit to broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of developing countries – including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries – in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance.

45. We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, subregional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others.

46. We underline the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development. While stressing the importance of strengthened national ownership and leadership at the country level, we express our support for the ongoing dialogue in the Economic and Social Council on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of this Agenda.

### **Follow-up and review**

47. Our Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming 15 years. To support accountability to our citizens, we will provide for systematic follow-up and review at the various levels, as set out in this Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level.

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<sup>12</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 69/137, annex II.

<sup>14</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

48. Indicators are being developed to assist this work. Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data is key to decision-making. Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. We are committed to developing broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product.

#### **A call for action to change our world**

49. Seventy years ago, an earlier generation of world leaders came together to create the United Nations. From the ashes of war and division they fashioned this Organization and the values of peace, dialogue and international cooperation which underpin it. The supreme embodiment of those values is the Charter of the United Nations.

50. Today we are also taking a decision of great historic significance. We resolve to build a better future for all people, including the millions who have been denied the chance to lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential. We can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet. The world will be a better place in 2030 if we succeed in our objectives.

51. What we are announcing today – an Agenda for global action for the next 15 years – is a charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century. Children and young women and men are critical agents of change and will find in the new Goals a platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world.

52. “We the peoples” are the celebrated opening words of the Charter of the United Nations. It is “we the peoples” who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community – and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. It is an Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people – and this, we believe, will ensure its success.

53. The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today’s younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations. We have mapped the road to sustainable development; it will be for all of us to ensure that the journey is successful and its gains irreversible.

## Sustainable Development Goals and targets

54. Following an inclusive process of intergovernmental negotiations, and based on the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>15</sup> which includes a chapeau contextualizing the latter, set out below are the Goals and targets which we have agreed.

55. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. It is important to recognize the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social and environmental fields.

56. In deciding upon these Goals and targets, we recognize that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and we underscore the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. Countries in situations of conflict also need special attention.

57. We recognize that baseline data for several of the targets remains unavailable, and we call for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity-building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist. We commit to addressing this gap in data collection so as to better inform the measurement of progress, in particular for those targets below which do not have clear numerical targets.

58. We encourage ongoing efforts by States in other forums to address key issues which pose potential challenges to the implementation of our Agenda, and we respect the independent mandates of those processes. We intend that the Agenda and its implementation would support, and be without prejudice to, those other processes and the decisions taken therein.

59. We recognize that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development; and we reaffirm that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions.

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<sup>15</sup> Contained in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals ([A/68/970](#) and Corr.1; see also [A/68/970/Add.1–3](#)).

**Sustainable Development Goals**

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

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\* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

**Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

**Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly

managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

### **Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing



countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

**Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

**Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
  - 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
  - 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
  - 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
  - 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
  - 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
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- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
  - 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
  - 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

**Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

**Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

**Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

**Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

**Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

**Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

## **Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

**Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\***

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

**Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

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\* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation<sup>16</sup>

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

**Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

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<sup>16</sup> Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate.



15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

**Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

### **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

#### **Finance**

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

#### **Technology**

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

**Capacity-building**

17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

**Trade**

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

**Systemic issues***Policy and institutional coherence*

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

*Multi-stakeholder partnerships*

17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

*Data, monitoring and accountability*

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

## Means of implementation and the Global Partnership

60. We reaffirm our strong commitment to the full implementation of this new Agenda. We recognize that we will not be able to achieve our ambitious Goals and targets without a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation. The revitalized Global Partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources.

61. The Agenda's Goals and targets deal with the means required to realize our collective ambitions. The means of implementation targets under each Sustainable Development Goal and Goal 17, which are referred to above, are key to realizing our Agenda and are of equal importance with the other Goals and targets. We shall accord them equal priority in our implementation efforts and in the global indicator framework for monitoring our progress.

62. This Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda supports, complements and helps to contextualize the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation targets. It relates to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up.

63. Cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts. We reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. We will respect each country's policy space and leadership to implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. At the same time, national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance. Processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, as well as capacity-building, are also critical. We commit to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

64. We support the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and reaffirm the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, all of which are integral to the new Agenda. We recognize the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

65. We recognize that middle-income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development. In order to ensure that achievements made to date

are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination, and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders.

66. We underscore that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to our common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We recognize that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels.

67. Private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. We acknowledge the diversity of the private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals. We call upon all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges. We will foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights and environmental and health standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements and other ongoing initiatives in this regard, such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>17</sup> and the labour standards of the International Labour Organization, the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>18</sup> and key multilateral environmental agreements, for parties to those agreements.

68. International trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development. We will continue to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization. We call upon all members of the World Trade Organization to redouble their efforts to promptly conclude the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda.<sup>19</sup> We attach great importance to providing trade-related capacity-building for developing countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries, including for the promotion of regional economic integration and interconnectivity.

69. We recognize the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate. Many countries remain vulnerable to debt crises and some are in the midst of crises, including a number of least developed countries, small island developing States and some developed countries. We reiterate that debtors and creditors must work together to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations. Maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries; however we acknowledge that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability. We will support the maintenance of debt sustainability of those countries that have received debt relief and achieved sustainable debt levels.

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<sup>17</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>19</sup> [A/C.2/56/7](#), annex.

70. We hereby launch a Technology Facilitation Mechanism which was established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to support the Sustainable Development Goals. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism will be based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders and will be composed of a United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, a collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and an online platform.

- The United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals will promote coordination, coherence and cooperation within the United Nations system on science, technology and innovation-related matters, enhancing synergy and efficiency, in particular to enhance capacity-building initiatives. The task team will draw on existing resources and will work with 10 representatives from civil society, the private sector and the scientific community to prepare the meetings of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in the development and operationalization of the online platform, including preparing proposals for the modalities for the forum and the online platform. The 10 representatives will be appointed by the Secretary-General, for periods of two years. The task team will be open to the participation of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and it will initially be composed of the entities that currently integrate the informal working group on technology facilitation, namely, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Bank.
- The online platform will be used to establish a comprehensive mapping of, and serve as a gateway for, information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the United Nations. The online platform will facilitate access to information, knowledge and experience, as well as best practices and lessons learned, on science, technology and innovation facilitation initiatives and policies. The online platform will also facilitate the dissemination of relevant open access scientific publications generated worldwide. The online platform will be developed on the basis of an independent technical assessment which will take into account best practices and lessons learned from other initiatives, within and beyond the United Nations, in order to ensure that it will complement, facilitate access to and provide adequate information on existing science, technology and innovation platforms, avoiding duplications and enhancing synergies.
- The multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals will be convened once a year, for a period of two days, to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise. The forum will provide a venue for facilitating interaction,

matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including on scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building, and also in order to help to facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals. The meetings of the forum will be convened by the President of the Economic and Social Council before the meeting of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council or, alternatively, in conjunction with other forums or conferences, as appropriate, taking into account the theme to be considered and on the basis of a collaboration with the organizers of the other forums or conferences. The meetings of the forum will be co-chaired by two Member States and will result in a summary of discussions elaborated by the two co-Chairs, as an input to the meetings of the high-level political forum, in the context of the follow-up and review of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

- The meetings of the high-level political forum will be informed by the summary of the multi-stakeholder forum. The themes for the subsequent multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals will be considered by the high-level political forum on sustainable development, taking into account expert inputs from the task team.

71. We reiterate that this Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, are universal, indivisible and interlinked.

### **Follow-up and review**

72. We commit to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of this Agenda over the next 15 years. A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

73. Operating at the national, regional and global levels, it will promote accountability to our citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving this Agenda and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning. It will mobilize support to overcome shared challenges and identify new and emerging issues. As this is a universal Agenda, mutual trust and understanding among all nations will be important.

74. Follow-up and review processes at all levels will be guided by the following principles:

(a) They will be voluntary and country-led, will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities. As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources.

(b) They will track progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in all countries in a manner which respects

their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development.

(c) They will maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors and support countries in making informed policy choices. They will help to mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships, support the identification of solutions and best practices and promote the coordination and effectiveness of the international development system.

(d) They will be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders.

(e) They will be people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.

(f) They will build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities. They will evolve over time, taking into account emerging issues and the development of new methodologies, and will minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.

(g) They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

(h) They will require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries.

(i) They will benefit from the active support of the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions.

75. The Goals and targets will be followed up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. These will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels which will be developed by Member States, in addition to the outcomes of work undertaken for the development of the baselines for those targets where national and global baseline data does not yet exist. The global indicator framework, to be developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, will be agreed by the Statistical Commission by March 2016 and adopted thereafter by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in line with existing mandates. This framework will be simple yet robust, address all Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including for means of implementation, and preserve the political balance, integration and ambition contained therein.

76. We will support developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. We will promote transparent and accountable scaling-up of appropriate public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observation and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress.



77. We commit to fully engage in conducting regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the subnational, national, regional and global levels. We will draw as far as possible on the existing network of follow-up and review institutions and mechanisms. National reports will allow assessments of progress and identify challenges at the regional and global level. Along with regional dialogues and global reviews, they will inform recommendations for follow-up at various levels.

#### **National level**

78. We encourage all Member States to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can support the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals and build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.

79. We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.

#### **Regional level**

80. Follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels can, as appropriate, provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets. We welcome in this respect the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations. Inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

81. Recognizing the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, we encourage all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. United Nations regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting Member States in this regard.

#### **Global level**

82. The high-level political forum will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. It will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It will promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It should ensure that the Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues. Effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

83. Follow-up and review at the high-level political forum will be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system, based on the

global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. The high-level political forum will also be informed by the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, which shall strengthen the science-policy interface and could provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. We invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to conduct a process of consultations on the scope, methodology and frequency of the global report as well as its relation to the progress report, the outcome of which should be reflected in the ministerial declaration of the session of the high-level political forum in 2016.

84. The high-level political forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall carry out regular reviews, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013. Reviews will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. They shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

85. Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, will also take place at the high-level political forum. These will be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. They will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the high-level political forum.

86. We welcome, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the dedicated follow-up and review for the financing for development outcomes as well as all the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals which is integrated with the follow-up and review framework of this Agenda. The intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of this Agenda in the high-level political forum.

87. Meeting every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly, the high-level political forum will provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation. The next high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly will be held in 2019, with the cycle of meetings thus reset, in order to maximize coherence with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.

88. We also stress the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to the implementation of the new Agenda by the United Nations development system. The relevant governing bodies should take action to review such support to implementation and to report on progress and obstacles. We welcome the ongoing dialogue in the Economic and Social Council on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system and look forward to taking action on these issues, as appropriate.

89. The high-level political forum will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290. We call upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.

90. We request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, for consideration at the seventieth session of the General Assembly in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the high-level political forum, which outlines critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level. The report should include a proposal on the organizational arrangements for State-led reviews at the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, including recommendations on voluntary common reporting guidelines. It should clarify institutional responsibilities and provide guidance on annual themes, on a sequence of thematic reviews, and on options for periodic reviews for the high-level political forum.

91. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030.

*4th plenary meeting  
25 September 2015*

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**Instruments mentioned in the section entitled  
“Sustainable Development Goals and targets”**

World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032)

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (resolution 69/283, annex II)

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363)

“The future we want” (resolution 66/288, annex)



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
14 July 2017

Seventy-first session  
Agenda items 19 and 73 (a)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.74)]

### 71/312. Our ocean, our future: call for action

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [70/303](#) of 9 September 2016, in which it decided that the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development would be convened at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Governments of Fiji and Sweden for discharging their co-hosting responsibilities by assuming the costs of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and its preparatory process and for providing all necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted by the Conference, as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

*90th plenary meeting  
6 July 2017*

### Annex

#### Our ocean, our future: call for action

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, meeting in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017 at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> with the full participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, affirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).



2. We are mobilized by a strong conviction that our ocean is critical to our shared future and common humanity in all its diversity. As leaders and representatives of our Governments, we are determined to act decisively and urgently, convinced that our collective action will make a meaningful difference to our people, to our planet and to our prosperity.

3. We recognize that our ocean covers three quarters of our planet, connects our populations and markets and forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage. It supplies nearly half the oxygen we breathe, absorbs over a quarter of the carbon dioxide we produce, plays a vital role in the water cycle and the climate system and is an important source of our planet's biodiversity and of ecosystem services. It contributes to sustainable development and sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, maritime trade and transportation, decent work and livelihoods.

4. We are particularly alarmed by the adverse impacts of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean and coastal acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, the decrease in polar ice coverage, coastal erosion and extreme weather events. We acknowledge the need to address the adverse impacts that impair the crucial ability of the ocean to act as climate regulator, source of marine biodiversity and as key provider of food and nutrition, tourism and ecosystem services and as an engine for sustainable economic development and growth. We recognize, in this regard, the particular importance of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>2</sup>

5. We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its ecosystems and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We recognize that the well-being of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health and productivity of our ocean.

6. We underline the integrated and indivisible character of all the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the interlinkages and synergies between them, and reiterate the critical importance of being guided in our work by the 2030 Agenda, including the principles reaffirmed therein. We acknowledge that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African States, including coastal ones, as do others recognized in the 2030 Agenda. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries.

7. We reiterate our commitment to achieve the targets of Goal 14 within the timelines, and the need to sustain action over the long term, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We recognize, in particular, the special importance of certain targets in Goal 14 for small island developing States and least developed countries.

8. We stress the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach, as well as enhanced cooperation, coordination and policy coherence, at all levels. We emphasize the critical importance of effective partnerships enabling collective action and reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of Goal 14 with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders.

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<sup>2</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

9. We underline the need to integrate Goal 14 and its interrelated targets into national development plans and strategies, to promote national ownership and to ensure success in its implementation by involving all relevant stakeholders, including national and local authorities, members of parliament, local communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth, as well as the academic and scientific communities, business and industry. We recognize the importance of gender equality and the crucial role of women and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

10. We stress the importance of enhancing understanding of the health and role of our ocean and the stressors on its ecosystems, including through assessments on the state of the ocean, based on science and on traditional knowledge systems. We also stress the need to further increase marine scientific research to inform and support decision-making, and to promote knowledge hubs and networks to enhance the sharing of scientific data, best practices and know-how.

11. We emphasize that our actions to implement Goal 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>3</sup> which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”.<sup>4</sup>

12. We recognize that the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources require the necessary means of implementation in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>5</sup> and other relevant outcomes, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.<sup>6</sup> We stress the importance of the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, in this context, emphasize the need to enhance scientific knowledge and research, enhance capacity-building at all levels, mobilize financial resources from all sources and facilitate the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to support the implementation of Goal 14 in developing countries.

13. We call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by taking, inter alia, the following actions on an urgent basis, including by building on existing institutions and partnerships:

(a) Approach the implementation of Goal 14 in an integrated and coordinated way and promote policies and actions that take into account the critical interlinkages among the targets of Goal 14, the potential synergies between Goal 14 and the other Goals, particularly those with ocean-related targets, as well as other processes that support the implementation of Goal 14;

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

(b) Strengthen cooperation, policy coherence and coordination among institutions at all levels, including between and among international organizations, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, arrangements and programmes;

(c) Strengthen and promote effective and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, by enhancing engagement of Governments with global, regional and subregional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, the donor community, non-governmental organizations, community groups, academic institutions and other relevant actors;

(d) Develop comprehensive strategies to raise awareness of the natural and cultural significance of the ocean, as well as of its state and role, and of the need to further improve knowledge of the ocean, including its importance for sustainable development and how it is impacted by anthropogenic activities;

(e) Support plans to foster ocean-related education, for example as part of education curricula, to promote ocean literacy and a culture of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our ocean;

(f) Dedicate greater resources to marine scientific research, such as interdisciplinary research and sustained ocean and coastal observation, as well as the collection and sharing of data and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, in order to increase our knowledge of the ocean, to better understand the relationship between climate and the health and productivity of the ocean, to strengthen the development of coordinated early warning systems on extreme weather events and phenomena, and to promote decision-making based on the best available science, to encourage scientific and technological innovation, as well as to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries;

(g) Accelerate actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, as well as to address, as appropriate, the adverse impacts of other human-related activities on the ocean and on marine life, such as ship strikes, underwater noise and invasive alien species;

(h) Promote waste prevention and minimization; develop sustainable consumption and production patterns; adopt the 3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle – including through incentivizing market-based solutions to reduce waste and its generation, improving mechanisms for environmentally sound waste management, disposal and recycling and developing alternatives such as reusable or recyclable products or products that are biodegradable under natural conditions;

(i) Implement long-term and robust strategies to reduce the use of plastics and microplastics, in particular plastic bags and single-use plastics, including by partnering with stakeholders at relevant levels to address their production, marketing and use;

(j) Support the use of effective and appropriate area-based management tools, including marine protected areas and other integrated, cross-sectoral approaches, including marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, based on best available science, as well as stakeholder engagement and applying the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, consistent with international law and in accordance with national legislation, to enhance ocean resilience and better conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity;

(k) Develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation measures that contribute to increasing and supporting resilience to ocean and coastal acidification, sea level rise and increase in ocean temperatures, and to addressing the other harmful impacts of climate change on the ocean as well as coastal and blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass and coral reefs, and wider interconnected ecosystems impacting on our ocean, and ensure the implementation of relevant obligations and commitments;

(l) Enhance sustainable fisheries management, including to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics, through the implementation of science-based management measures, monitoring, control and enforcement, supporting the consumption of fish sourced from sustainably managed fisheries, and through precautionary and ecosystem approaches as appropriate, as well as strengthening cooperation and coordination, including through, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations, bodies and arrangements;

(m) End destructive fishing practices and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, addressing their root causes and holding actors and beneficiaries accountable by taking appropriate actions, so as to deprive them of benefits of such activities, and effectively implementing flag State obligations as well as relevant port State obligations;

(n) Accelerate further work and strengthen cooperation and coordination on the development of interoperable catch documentation schemes and traceability of fish products;

(o) Strengthen capacity-building and technical assistance provided to small-scale and artisanal fishers in developing countries, to enable and enhance their access to marine resources and markets and improve the socioeconomic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management;

(p) Act decisively to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, including through accelerating work to complete negotiations at the World Trade Organization on this issue, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of those negotiations;

(q) Support the promotion and strengthening of sustainable ocean-based economies, which, inter alia, build on sustainable activities such as fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, maritime transportation, renewable energies, marine biotechnology and seawater desalination as means to achieve the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries;

(r) Increase efforts to mobilize the means necessary for the development of sustainable ocean-related activities and the implementation of Goal 14, particularly in developing countries, in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other relevant outcomes;

(s) Actively engage in discussions and the exchange of views in the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution [69/292](#): Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, so that the



General Assembly can, before the end of its seventy-second session, taking into account the report of the Preparatory Committee to the Assembly, decide on the convening and on the starting date of an intergovernmental conference;

(*t*) Welcome follow-up on the partnership dialogues and commit to implementing our respective voluntary commitments made in the context of the Conference;

(*u*) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future;

(*v*) Consider further ways and means to support the timely and effective implementation of Goal 14, taking into account the discussions at the high-level political forum during its first cycle.

14. We strongly call upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to support the implementation of Goal 14 in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by enhancing inter-agency coordination and coherence throughout the United Nations system on ocean issues, taking into consideration the work of UN-Oceans.

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
21 October 2019

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 19 (a)

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

## **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 October 2019**

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/74/L.2)*]

### **74/4. Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly*

*Endorses* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution.

*15th plenary meeting  
15 October 2019*

## **Annex**

### **Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit**

#### **I**

#### **Our commitment**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high representatives, have met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 and 25 September 2019 at the



Sustainable Development Goals Summit,<sup>1</sup> to review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>2</sup>

2. We stand firm in our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership – a plan to free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and heal and secure our planet for future generations.

3. We emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

4. Today, we are launching an ambitious and accelerated response to reach our common vision by 2030, and pledging to make the coming decade one of action and delivery. We will maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda, including by ensuring ambitious and continuous action on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline.

5. We reaffirm the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. We will take more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first.

6. We also reaffirm the principles recognized in the 2030 Agenda and recall that it is universal in nature and that its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

7. We remain resolved, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We also remain resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.

8. We resolve to realize our vision of a world with access to inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage and quality health care, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.

9. We recognize the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in pursuing sustainable development.

10. We reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied full human rights and opportunities.

11. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, and remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We emphasize in

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<sup>1</sup> High-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 70/1.

this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority.

12. We commit to achieving a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, to conserving and sustainably using our planet's marine and terrestrial resources, including through sustainable consumption and production, to reversing the trends of environmental degradation, to promoting resilience, to reducing disaster risk, and to halting ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.

13. We recognize that greater efforts are needed to direct and align the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda with our Goals, and commit to accelerate the implementation of commitments across the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.<sup>3</sup>

14. In this endeavour, we must come together in durable partnerships between governments at all levels, and with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth.

15. The 2030 Agenda is our promise to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations.

## II

### Our world today

16. We recognize the many efforts at all levels since 2015 to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We have seen a significant response from national Governments, cities, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth and other actors. We acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals are increasingly incorporated in national policies, plans, budgets and development cooperation efforts, and we recognize that private sector engagement in sustainable investing is growing. Global, regional and subregional multilateral development and finance institutions have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals and taken significant steps to incorporate them into their operations.

17. We welcome the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to reposition the United Nations development system to better support countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and we commit to continuing to support his efforts.

18. We commend the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including its reviews of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The voluntary national reviews presented by 142 countries bear witness to the efforts at the national level to prioritize integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies and to bring together all parts of society in the common endeavour of realizing the 2030 Agenda. We further welcome the efforts at the regional level, including by the United Nations regional commissions and the regional forums on sustainable development as well as the contributions of major groups and all other stakeholders.

19. We take note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, including the identified entry points for transformation and transformative levers for realizing the 2030 Agenda. We acknowledge the potential of a systemic and holistic approach, taking into account interlinkages between Goals and targets. The reports show that we have achieved progress in some areas, such as in reducing extreme

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

poverty and child and neonatal mortality; improving access to electricity and safe drinking water; and expanding the coverage of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

20. At the same time, we are concerned that progress is slow in many areas. Vulnerabilities are high and deprivations are becoming more entrenched. Assessments show that we are at risk of missing the poverty eradication target. Hunger is on the rise. Progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is too slow. Inequalities in wealth, incomes and opportunities are increasing in and between countries. Biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, discharge of plastic litter into the oceans, climate change and increasing disaster risk continue at rates that bring potentially disastrous consequences for humanity.

21. We recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination.

22. Violent extremism, terrorism, organized crime, corruption, illicit financial flows, global health threats, humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades.

23. In many parts of the world conflicts and instability have endured or intensified and natural disasters have become more frequent and intense, causing untold human suffering and undermining the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our ability to prevent and resolve conflicts and build resilient, peaceful, just and inclusive societies has often been fragmented and insufficient.

### III

#### Our call to accelerated action

24. We recognize the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders, in order to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda. We also emphasize the need for concerted action across all relevant major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>4</sup> the New Urban Agenda,<sup>5</sup> the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,<sup>6</sup> the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>7</sup> and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.<sup>8</sup> We recognize the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.<sup>9</sup>

25. We welcome the voluntary actions pledged by leaders at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and throughout this high-level week.

26. We request the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the reports on progress on the Goals, and in the lead-up to the summit to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, to engage Governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in generating solutions and accelerating action to address systemic gaps in implementation, as we embark on a decisive decade for the 2030 Agenda. We also call upon the Secretary-General to organize an annual moment to highlight inspiring action on the Goals, in the context of the general debate of the General Assembly.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 69/137, annex II.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>9</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

27. To demonstrate our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to do more and faster. To this end, we commit to:

(a) **Leaving no one behind:** we will place a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable in our policies and actions. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. We intend to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social and economic barriers to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights;

(b) **Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing:** in order to close the financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals, Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders need to increase the level of ambition in domestic, public and private resource mobilization, strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable investments and deliver on commitments to international development cooperation. We will ensure that policies and actions reach those furthest behind, aiming at financial inclusion, and supporting the competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including women- and youth-owned enterprises. We will also strive to increase our level of ambition on the non-financial means of implementation, including promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, recognizing that international trade is an engine for development;

(c) **Enhancing national implementation:** we pledge to lift the level of ambition of our national responses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while respecting national processes and ensuring ownership. To this end, we aim to proactively mainstream the 2030 Agenda into our national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks;

(d) **Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions:** we will proactively develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and ensure more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes. We will strive to equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets through a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development;

(e) **Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation:** we commit to empower and support cities, local authorities and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. We recognize their critical role in implementing and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals;

(f) **Reducing disaster risk and building resilience:** we undertake to pursue policy, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters;

(g) **Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership:** we recognize that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response. We renew our commitment to multilateralism, to find new ways of working together and to ensure that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place. We further commit to finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respecting international law and

the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the right to self-determination of peoples and the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States;

(h) **Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development:** we will promote research, capacity-building initiatives, innovation and technologies towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the use of scientific evidence from all fields to enable the transformation to sustainable development. We will promote and support quality education and lifelong learning to ensure that all children, youth and adults are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills to shape more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies that are able to adapt to rapid technological change. We will foster international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technologies and education;

(i) **Investing in data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals:** we commit to strengthen our national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to allow countries to provide high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics and to fully integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in our monitoring and reporting systems. We encourage international cooperation supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in collecting, analysing and using reliable data and statistics;

(j) **Strengthening the high-level political forum:** we pledge to carry out an ambitious and effective review of the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly with a view to better addressing gaps in implementation and linking identified challenges with appropriate responses, including on financing, to further strengthen the effective and participatory character of this intergovernmental forum and encourage the peer-learning character of the voluntary national reviews. We also pledge to advance our efforts in communicating the 2030 Agenda to the global public to raise awareness and inspire accelerated action.

28. We know the world we want. We pledge to accelerate our common efforts, now and in the coming decade to reach this vision by 2030. Rapid change is possible and the Goals remain within reach if we embrace transformation and accelerate implementation.



# Economic and Social Council

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## 2022 session

Agenda item 5

### **High-level segment on building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

#### **Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

*[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2022/L.14)]*

## I. Introduction

1. We, the Ministers and high representatives, met in New York at the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development and adopted the present ministerial declaration committing to accelerate global action for sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals.

2. We are meeting against the backdrop of a fragile and highly uncertain global socioeconomic outlook, amid the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its consequences, the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution and other environmental degradation aspects, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts with widespread effects on people, planet, prosperity and peace.

3. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing it as the blueprint for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, leaving no one behind. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.





law, and it is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> in international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration<sup>3</sup> and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.<sup>4</sup> It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.<sup>5</sup>

4. We reaffirm that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We are gravely concerned that, for the first time in decades, the global poverty rate has increased and millions have been pushed back into extreme poverty. We further reaffirm the importance of achieving global food security and express deep concern over the drastic increase in hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, increasing the risk of famine around the world, especially in developing countries. We reiterate our commitment to reach the furthest behind first, as the pandemic and the deteriorating global economic situation are harming especially the poorest and most vulnerable and have direct consequences on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. We recall that the 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, seeking to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We reaffirm that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. We are gravely concerned, in this regard, by the increased and ongoing conflicts in the world, which are affecting global peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development. We call for full respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and condemn any violation of those principles and law.

6. We reaffirm the universality of the 2030 Agenda and its comprehensive, far-reaching, people-centred and transformative set of Sustainable Development Goals and targets, guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. We wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. The Goals are indivisible, integrated and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda and its Goals seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

7. We reaffirm also our commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,<sup>6</sup> the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>7</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>8</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>9</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>10</sup> the New Urban Agenda<sup>11</sup> and other major internationally agreed United Nations outcome documents in the economic, social and environmental fields, which are fully complementary and mutually reinforcing with the 2030 Agenda.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and international solidarity as the best way for the world to effectively overcome and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, prevent future pandemics and address the other urgent global challenges such as increased poverty; food insecurity,

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<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/1.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>8</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

malnutrition and hunger; climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; strengthening global health, including pandemic prevention, preparedness and response; reducing inequalities, starting with people in the most vulnerable situations; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all; building and increasing long-term resilience to crises and get back onto a track of accelerated progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We highlight the need for greater collaboration and partnerships at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We recognize that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

9. We reaffirm the primary responsibility of Governments to implement the 2030 Agenda. We reiterate the central role of the United Nations system in supporting national and regional efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and effectively catalysing and coordinating the global response to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from COVID-19. We recognize the contribution of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including its functional commissions, and the other intergovernmental bodies and forums, as well as the contribution of all other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. We note the important contributions of all stakeholders, including the major groups and other stakeholders, civil society, the private sector and academia, among others, and encourage additional cooperation. We reiterate that the high-level political forum will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and relevant stakeholders in line with General Assembly resolution [67/290](#).

10. We recognize the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on the 2030 Agenda and actions to recover better while accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals**

11. We note with great concern that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to generate and exacerbate human suffering and socioeconomic damage. The pandemic has amplified existing vulnerabilities, reinforced and created new obstacles to the realization of all the Sustainable Development Goals, has widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment and the numbers of people who left the labour force, and continues to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women and girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations. We express our highest appreciation of, and support for, the dedication, efforts and sacrifices, above and beyond the call of duty, of all health professionals and workers and all other relevant front-line workers and volunteers in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic and its

consequences. In particular, we stress the continuing urgency to address the impacts and underlying causes of and challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which are undermining or reversing progress on many Sustainable Development Goals.

13. We take note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>12</sup> In particular, we note with alarm that years, or even decades, of development progress have been halted or reversed, due to multiple and widespread impacts of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change. We are particularly concerned by the rise in extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, water scarcity, inequalities, education disruptions, violence against women and children, unemployment, barriers to access financial resources and to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, additional social and economic vulnerabilities affecting in particular those already in the most vulnerable situations, in addition to the increased challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We recognize that the multiple and interlinked global crises we are facing are putting the Goals at great risk and jeopardize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to mobilize and accelerate actions for rescuing the Goals and to leave no one behind by adopting resilient, sustainable, inclusive, low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development pathways in a transparent and inclusive manner in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

14. The world’s economic recovery has proven uneven and global growth is facing significant risks. We acknowledge that inflation, slowing economic growth, poverty, inequality, unsustainable consumption and production patterns and the ongoing disruptions in global value and supply chains, the increase in food and commodity prices and the serious rise in global food insecurity further endanger development prospects and contribute to a further divergence in recovery, particularly in the most vulnerable countries already suffering from high levels of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. We call upon the international community to enhance international cooperation to address these urgent challenges, including by preserving and strengthening global value and supply chains, in particular for essential goods and services such as food and agriculture, and supporting sustainable agriculture and fisheries, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

15. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a demonstration of the inextricable relationship between humans and nature. We will promote the One Health approach and other holistic approaches to strengthen synergies between the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems. We emphasize the importance of the One Health and other holistic approaches that deliver multiple benefits to the health and well-being of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, that would further strengthen the capacity to address biodiversity loss, prevent, prepare for and respond to the emergence of diseases, including zoonotic infections and future pandemics, and combat antimicrobial resistance. We welcome, in this regard, the Quadripartite Partnership for One Health, composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and recall the operational definition of One Health agreed by the One Health High-level Expert Panel, supported by WHO, FAO, WOAH and UNEP.

16. We encourage the adoption of an evidence- and science-based, multi-hazard, whole-of-government, whole-of-society and coordinated approach to prevention and

<sup>12</sup> E/2022/55.

risk reduction, preparedness and response for disasters and emergencies of any kind, including health emergencies.

17. In order to overcome this pandemic, we reaffirm the urgency to ensure timely, affordable and equitable access to safe, effective and quality COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies. We express deep concern about the gap in access to these tools, including, in particular, in vaccination rates, particularly between developed and developing countries, and urge all actors to step up efforts to close the vaccination gap, in alignment with the World Health Organization global vaccination strategy and national strategies. We stress the need to develop and revitalize global partnerships and partnerships at all levels to scale up sustainable regional and local manufacturing and distribution capabilities that flexibly respond to the needs of this and potential future pandemics, in recognition of differing national contexts, and recognize the role of extensive vaccination against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in reducing transmission and preventing serious illness and death, in order to bring the pandemic to an end.

18. We recognize the important role of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) and other relevant initiatives. We call upon all public and private actors to continue to support multilateral and other effective mechanisms that aim to accelerate development, production of and equitable access to, delivery and administration of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for all countries that need them and underline the importance of filling the funding gaps of these facilities, while encouraging countries with the capacities to do so to continue the responsible and transparent sharing of available doses with the COVAX Facility as well as through other multilateral channels and coordinated bilateral donations, subject to demand, to promote equitable distribution of vaccines to developing countries. We reiterate our commitment to help developing countries in their efforts to meet their national vaccination therapeutics and diagnostics needs and improve national health systems and health infrastructure, with a view to strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and contributing to achieving universal health coverage.

19. We take note of the Rome Declaration of the Group of 20 Global Health Summit, including its calls to support and enhance the existing multilateral global health architecture, with an effective and adequately, sustainably and predictably funded World Health Organization at its centre in its leading technical, normative and coordinating role. We also note its call to address the need for enhanced, streamlined, sustainable, coordinated and predictable mechanisms to finance long-term pandemic prevention, preparedness, detection of and response to health threats, such as pandemics, as well as surge capacity.

20. We urge Member States to increase international collaboration and coordination on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response at the highest political level, including by participating in and supporting the ongoing process to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response under the auspices of the World Health Organization and by strengthening the implementation of and compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005),<sup>13</sup> including by considering potential targeted amendments, while taking note of the report of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, as well as the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the World Health

<sup>13</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

Organization Health Emergencies Programme and the report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

21. We call for further strengthening of international solidarity and cooperation for combating and recovering from the pandemic, including through:

(a) Ensuring that no one will be left behind in the recovery from the pandemic, recognizing the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all;

(b) Improving access to quality, safe, effective and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health tools, including through the rapid scaling up and expansion of vaccine production globally, including in developing countries, through appropriate dissemination of technology and know-how in accordance with World Trade Organization rules, for example, licensing, using TRIPS flexibilities if necessary, sharing knowledge and data related to COVID-19 health technologies. We note the ministerial decisions and declarations adopted at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, including the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement. We support ongoing discussion at the World Trade Organization on how the multilateral rules-based trade system can contribute to enhancing access to equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines;

(c) Working to address bottlenecks in the universal, effective, efficient and equitable distribution and administration of vaccines among and within countries with the aim of boosting immunization through effective vaccination campaigns globally;

(d) Strengthening health systems, with particular emphasis on primary health care, and public health infrastructure to save lives and livelihoods, and increasing and broadening of support to people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including through information and education, and greater links between public health and environmental policies;

(e) Strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and the role of the World Health Organization as the leading and coordinating organization on international health matters, as well as other regional and national health actors, as appropriate, and in collaboration with all other relevant sectors;

(f) Continuing support for relevant multilateral mechanisms to address the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, facilitating access to financial resources for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery;

(g) Providing economic and social support and protection measures, starting with the most affected people and people in vulnerable situations;

(h) Working towards societies that promote health and enable people to live healthier lives, recognizing that better public health is fundamental for achieving global health.

22. We recognize the continued negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable countries, in particular countries in special situations, as well as on those facing specific challenges in pursuing sustainable development. Taking into account the different levels of development and the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on countries in special situations and countries facing specific challenges, we reiterate the call for increased support by taking urgent additional steps to help them to address the impacts of COVID-19 for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, including through funding stimulus measures that take into account their special vulnerabilities. We remain concerned that these groups of countries have faced particular challenges in dealing with multiple crises as a result of the COVID-19

pandemic, including significant impacts on debt, trade, tourism, commodities, financial flows, food security, education and other economic and social sectors.

23. We recall the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and reaffirm that disaster-prone developing countries need particular attention in view of their high vulnerability and exposure to adverse climate change impacts. We recognize that the development and implementation of risk-informed plans, policies, programmes and investments are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We also recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to wider, growing risks and note with serious concern the stark warnings contained in the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and note that the Sendai Framework provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner. We also recognize the health aspects of the Sendai Framework and stress the need for resilient health systems.

24. We recognize that additional key economic and social sectors beyond health care and education, such as commodities, agriculture and food systems, social services, tourism, culture and sport, have been differently impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we commit to scale up efforts to relaunch, promote and support these important drivers of sustainable development, including for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent job creation. We also recognize the impact of COVID-19 on the world drug problem and stress that addressing and countering the world drug problem requires coordinated multidisciplinary efforts, and that such efforts should become a top priority in the post-COVID-19 period, also in line with the 2021 statement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of Member States’ joint commitments to address and counter all aspects of the world drug problem.<sup>14</sup>

25. We reaffirm the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional challenges and scaling up action among countries. We welcome the work of the regional commissions and recognize the valuable contribution of the regional forums on sustainable development, as the multi-stakeholder platforms to support their member States in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the regions and in the preparation of the voluntary national reviews, including at the local and regional levels.

### III. Goals under in-depth review and voluntary national reviews

26. We commend the 44 countries<sup>15</sup> that presented voluntary national reviews at the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development. We encourage all countries to use the key findings of the voluntary national reviews and the sharing of locally driven development approaches and pathways, to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, including the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. We express our appreciation to the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews for supporting the voluntary national review preparation process. We further

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<sup>14</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 8 (E/2021/28)*, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 64/1.

<sup>15</sup> Andorra, Argentina, Belarus, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Montenegro, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

commend the 188 countries that have presented their voluntary national reviews to date.

27. We encourage the full, equal and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, civil society organizations and academia, in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development strategies and in the preparation of voluntary national reviews. We encourage countries to consider developing national road maps of voluntary national reviews for presentation until 2030. We further encourage the involvement and empowerment of local authorities, to ensure ownership and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular by citizens, communities, civil society, local organizations, the private sector and academia. In this regard, we welcome voluntary subnational and local reviews as an essential tool to show progress and foster exchange on local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in coordination and synergy with national actors. We recognize the importance of taking development cooperation policies into account in the voluntary national reviews, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

28. We encourage all relevant actors to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development and localization of the Goals, including through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, among others, as well as inclusive governance that can bring about transformative change.

29. We note with concern that the Sustainable Development Goal targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved. We commit to maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda and achieve these targets in an accelerated time frame, reflecting the urgency conveyed in the Agenda, while keeping track of and taking fully into account the related ongoing intergovernmental processes to allow updated targets to reflect a suitable level of ambition for 2030.

#### **Goal 4, Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

30. We reaffirm our commitment to the goal of Sustainable Development Goal 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and to implement all targets of Goal 4. We note with concern that the unprecedented global school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic have severely affected the learning, development and well-being of children and youth worldwide. The school closures have disproportionately impacted girls, children and youth in vulnerable situations, those living in rural areas, children with disabilities, children in situations of conflict and post-conflict settings, refugees, displaced children and youth, children belonging to minorities, as well as persons in vulnerable situations. This has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities between countries and between and within educational systems in access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. The digital divide became evident between those who had the means to continue education remotely and those who did not. The impact of the pandemic on equal learning opportunity is further exacerbated by these digital divides as well as by the rural-urban divide and the gender digital divide. More than ever, we are faced with an urgency to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4.

31. The right to education is a human right and promotes the realization of other human rights and the achievement of sustainable development. Investing in inclusive and equitable quality education requires sustainable funding and we encourage

Governments to invest in resilient, inclusive and shock-responsive public education, including but not limited to early childhood development, care and pre-primary education, which also directly reduces women’s unpaid childcare work. We encourage all Governments to prioritize the increasing or maintaining of the share of public expenditure on education in line with the Paris Declaration: A Global Call for Investing in the Futures of Education, which encourages Governments to prioritize, protect and increase domestic and international funding for education towards the international benchmarks of public expenditure. While domestic financing for education is of paramount importance, there is a need for international funding to close the widening gap between resources and requirements in developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries. We also recognize the importance of education for sustainable development, including cultural diversity for sustainable development, and encourage all countries and other relevant stakeholders to promote it through educational tools.

32. We commit to take additional measures to avert a multigenerational crisis in education and call for mitigating the effects of school closures and cuts in national education budgets, including on learning, child nutrition, all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and child abuse. This includes safely reopening schools, providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, taking all possible actions to ensure qualified teachers and learners’ re-enrolment and re-engagement, learning recovery and well-being through a non-discriminatory, accessible, integrated, multisectoral, child-sensitive and gender-responsive approach. We also encourage scaling up efforts for remedial, accelerated learning and catch-up strategies to mitigate learning losses, equipping children and adolescents with foundational skills, such as literacy and numeracy, and taking actions to ensure quality education and learning programmes beyond the schools for out-of-school children and youth and illiterate adults, particularly for the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, especially girls, persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, local communities, children and youth in situations of conflict and humanitarian emergencies, refugees, children and youth living in rural and remote areas, pregnant women and girls and young mothers and displaced children and youth.

33. We recognize the impacts of all natural and human-made disasters on education and call for strengthened disaster risk reduction in the education sector, taking into account crucial services such as health and nutrition, child protection, mental health and psychosocial support services. We emphasize the need for new and existing educational infrastructure, school facilities and teaching and learning practices to be risk-informed, resilient and fully accessible to all. This requires channelling financial and other resources towards strengthening these efforts. We stress the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge and learning continuity in formal and non-formal education, as well as in professional education and training.

34. We acknowledge the importance of quality education for all to achieve sustainable development. We recall our commitment to ensure free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all girls and boys, with specific attention to girls who are at higher risk of being left behind. We encourage Governments to adopt education and lifelong learning strategies, policies and budgets that ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in and through education. We reaffirm our commitment to build and upgrade education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide safe, healthy, drug-free, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. We commit to connect and prioritize programmes and policies on education, training, skills development and decent employment of young people, including young women,



recognizing that equal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education promotes youth and women’s empowerment and enables their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership. We stress the key role of the teaching profession in efforts to improve quality of education and learning at all levels of education. We encourage the promotion of teachers’ continuous professional development, including on digital competences and learner-centred pedagogies and seek to invest in their well-being and decent working conditions.

35. We encourage promoting digital technologies, including low- and no-tech strategies, access to broadband Internet and technology devices, connectivity, digital inclusion and literacy and incorporating digital competences into the education system, including with ad hoc investments for teachers and the teaching profession, enhancing digital skills and competences development, including through public investment in digital qualification, specialization in digital technologies, digital economy, digital infrastructure, public policies and institutional development and multi-stakeholder and international collaboration.

36. We recall the Paris Declaration: A Global Call for Investing in the Futures of Education, adopted in Paris at the 2021 Global Education Meeting, including the launch of the Sustainable Development Goal 4-Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee. We commit to strengthen the global cooperation in education, including but not limited to through the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism and other relevant avenues, to help to ensure and monitor the efficient and effective delivery on the commitments made at the global meetings on education. We appreciate existing multilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for education and encourage continued support.

37. We look forward to the convening by the Secretary-General of the Transforming Education Summit, and call upon Member States in collaboration with other key education stakeholders, in particular youth and civil society, to work towards the transformation of education systems to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 and better prepare our societies for the future, by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, as well as affordable technical, vocational and higher education; promoting universal literacy and numeracy, education for sustainable development and global citizenship; building and upgrading inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy schools; expanding higher education scholarships for developing countries; and increasing the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries. We invite the Summit to take into account the policies and actions recommended in the present declaration. We invite the Secretary-General to consult with countries and ensure youth participation in the preparations for and leading to and at the Summit.

## **Goal 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

38. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and to implement all targets of Sustainable Development Goal 5, which will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of all the Goals, making it a priority in the COVID-19 recovery and response measures and beyond. National and international efforts for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 must be gender-responsive and promote and ensure women’s full, equal, meaningful participation and leadership at all levels. We will ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course, without discrimination of any kind. The systemic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains crucial.

39. We reaffirm our commitment to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Women and girls often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and, in this regard, we recognize the disproportionate impacts on all women and girls, especially those in vulnerable situations and conflict settings, as well as indigenous women and girls. We reiterate the urgency of addressing existing structural barriers such as discriminatory laws and policies, gender stereotypes, harmful practices and negative social norms and attitudes, so as to ensure the protection, respect and fulfilment of women’s and girls’ human rights, as well as their access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance and other resources, and access to credit, financial resources and services. We urge that countries fully integrate gender equality strategies into national sustainable development frameworks so as to promote accelerated action and greater policy coherence, recognizing that achieving gender equality will require both targeted gender-responsive action and the systemic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all our policies and programmes.

40. We recognize the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>16</sup> the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>17</sup> and the outcome documents of their review conferences and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We take note of relevant international regional and national initiatives in this regard. We acknowledge that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making at all levels and in all sectors, are essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all. We reaffirm that all women and girls play a vital role as agents of change for sustainable development.

41. We recognize that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods, sexual and gender-based violence, and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters. We call for gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans, programmes and financing, and acknowledge the importance of women’s leadership in gender-responsive risk governance. We recognize that empowering all women, including women with disabilities, to publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key to sustainable development, including to effectively manage disaster risk and for designing, resourcing and implementing gender-responsive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes.

42. We note with concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and it threatens to undermine progress towards the fulfilment of their human rights. Women and girls have suffered a disproportionate share of job and education losses while their already unequal unpaid care and domestic work has increased, particularly in the case of women and girls in vulnerable situations. We call for supporting the expansion of gender-responsive social protection programmes and strengthening safety nets through social protection systems and measures. All forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence, have

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

intensified during the pandemic, and access to essential sexual and reproductive health-care services has been affected. While women have played a key role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as front-line health workers, care providers and as managers and leaders of recovery efforts, they remain underrepresented in leadership positions and their rights and priorities are often not explicitly addressed in response and recovery measures.

43. We commit to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls, in public and private spaces, both in person and in digital contexts, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as child and forced labour, trafficking in persons, modern slavery and other forms of exploitation. We emphasize that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates their full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and call for women’s full access to justice, effective legal remedies, and health-care and psychosocial services, including protection, rehabilitation and reintegration.

44. We must continue to protect and promote the right to work and rights at work of all women, facilitate women’s full and equal participation in the labour market and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors and at all levels. This requires policies based on social dialogue, aimed, among others, at eliminating occupational segregation, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence and sexual harassment, ensuring the safety of all women in the world of work and promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively. We will provide specific programmes and mobilize financial resources and technologies to support women to return to economic activity, including access to decent work, training and financial services, strengthening their economic empowerment.

45. We commit to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

46. We recognize the important roles and contributions of indigenous women and girls, women and girls living in rural and remote areas, women with disabilities, women smallholder and family farmers and entrepreneurs, and women in fisheries, as guardians of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and agents of change in responding to climate change, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, enhancing sustainable agricultural and fisheries development, and ensuring food security and nutrition. We support their access to and ownership of natural and economic resources and access to financial services. We will take steps to protect civil society actors, including women.

47. We reaffirm the need to recognize and value women’s and girls’ disproportionate share of paid and unpaid care and domestic work and adopt measures to reduce and redistribute this work, as well as the need to reward and represent paid care work, including improved wages and working conditions, social protection and guaranteeing that women caregivers participate in the design and decision-making to implement policies, budgets and plans. This requires promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities within the household and prioritizing, inter alia, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, gender-responsive social protection policies

and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including but not limited to care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave.

48. We acknowledge women’s and girls’ critical contributions to their families and communities. We recognize the importance of implementing family-friendly and family-oriented policies aimed at, inter alia, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their enjoyment of all human rights and also recognize the need to ensure that all sustainable development policies and programmes are responsive to the changing needs and expectations of families in fulfilling their numerous functions and that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected. We recognize the importance of fully engaging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

49. We encourage strengthening and implementing gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes and developing and strengthening methodologies and tools for the monitoring and evaluation of investments for gender equality results, and reaffirm the importance of collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data in order to develop and strengthen evidence-based public policies and programmes.

50. We reaffirm that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding is one of the essential factors for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security and, in this regard, we further reaffirm the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to promoting the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with their respective mandates.

### **Goal 14, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

51. We reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use and manage the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and to act decisively and urgently, scaling up ocean action in order to accelerate implementation of all targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14. In this regard, we welcome the outcomes of the second United Nations Ocean Conference and its political declaration and we call for its full implementation.

52. We recognize that a healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and that the well-being of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health and productivity of our ocean. We renew our determination to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its marine and coastal ecosystems and to protecting, conserving and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We stress the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to ocean management, as well as for enhanced cooperation, coordination and policy coherence at all levels to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. We recognize that the conservation and sustainable management of aquatic living resources is an effective strategy to protect and restore marine ecosystems, boost economic growth, strengthen the resilience of livelihoods, reduce poverty, increase food security and improve nutrition. We will take effective measures, in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches, to conserve, protect and restore the ocean and its resources from natural and human-made hazards.

53. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>18</sup> which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”.<sup>19</sup>

54. We are alarmed by the global emergency facing the ocean caused by the adverse impacts of climate change, including slow-onset changes and more frequent and severe sea level events which are projected to escalate in the coming decades, with coral reefs projected to decline by 70 to 90 per cent at 1.5 degrees Celsius, with larger losses (over 99 per cent) at 2 degrees Celsius of global warming. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion and ocean warming and acidification are serious threats for many coastal human communities and ecosystems, and can impact food and water availability and quality, especially in developing countries, with negative impacts on sustainable development.

55. We recognize the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ocean-based economies, and in particular the ocean-based economies of small island developing States, as well as on seafarers and fishers, who have been disproportionately adversely affected. We also recognize the threat to ocean health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic due to improper waste management, including of plastic waste, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), which has exacerbated the problem of marine plastic litter and microplastics in the ocean.

56. We call for mobilizing actions for a healthy ocean to ensure that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture can deliver sufficient, safe and nutritious food, recognizing that achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 is crucial for the transformation towards sustainable food systems and for achieving Goal 2 by 2030. We emphasize once again the importance of ending illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and we welcome the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies reached at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. We recognize the importance of adopting sustainable, responsible and risk-informed fishing practices and of prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, as well as improving the effective and inclusive implementation of fisheries governance mechanisms.

57. We support the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and stress the need to further increase marine scientific research and cooperation to inform and support decision-making, to promote knowledge hubs and networks to enhance the voluntary sharing of scientific data, best practices and know-how, enhance capacity-building at all levels, mobilize adequate financial resources from all sources and facilitate voluntary technology transfer to developing countries, to contribute to the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, combat marine pollution of all kinds and ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. We reiterate the call for the promotion of marine science and research capacity in small island developing States and least developed countries, including through the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, in line with Sustainable Development Goal target 14.7.

58. We stress the urgency of taking immediate actions towards the long-term elimination of plastic pollution in marine environments, including through promoting national action plans to work towards the prevention, reduction and elimination of marine litter and plastic pollution from all sources, and promoting sustainable consumption and production approaches, including resources efficiency and life-

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>19</sup> General Assembly resolution [66/288](#), annex.

cycle approaches, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste is avoided or minimized. We will continue to raise public awareness and engage stakeholders in the prevention of plastic pollution through promoting sustainable and responsible production and consumption patterns.

59. We welcome resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, and commit to actively follow up on the decision by engaging in the intergovernmental negotiating committee with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024.

60. We stress the need and call for an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective, robust and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We also recognize the importance of the effective and successful work being undertaken by the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and call upon participating delegations to reach an ambitious agreement without delay, recognizing the potential contribution of its outcomes to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

61. We underline the connection between sustainable and healthy oceans and climate action, highlighting the importance of sustainably using, protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, in order to meet the relevant Paris Agreement goals as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted. We recognize that greenhouse gas emissions and climate change seriously impact the ocean, including through sea level rise, increased temperatures and acidification and that the ocean is also a key source of solutions for climate change mitigation, as a key carbon sink, and adaptation. We emphasize in this regard the importance of implementing the commitments made under the Paris Agreement as well as the need to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in the work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We also welcome the invitation to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the UNFCCC to hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.

62. We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine environment and ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people. Recalling that 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, we recognize the role of small-scale aquatic food producers in this regard and we encourage support to sustainable small-scale fisheries, including through the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and by increasing access to resources and markets for small-scale artisanal fisheries.

63. We recognize the importance of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, to addressing the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of oceans and their resources and their contribution to disaster risk reduction, and stress the importance of developing early warning systems and preparedness to prevent and mitigate the risks of ocean-related hazards, including through the incorporation of these approaches into integrated coastal zone management to prevent

pollution, reduce risk, impacts and costs of disasters and build resilience to advance the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

64. We welcome the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

65. We emphasize the fundamental importance of healthy oceans and sustainable ocean-based economies for women and girls and recognize the disproportionate impact of ocean degradation on them, including the consequences of plastic pollution in oceans and other water bodies on food security, livelihoods and the health of women and girls. We recognize the importance of ensuring that people, especially children and youth, are empowered with relevant knowledge and skills that enable them to understand the importance of and the need to contribute to the health of the ocean, including in decision-making, through promoting and supporting quality education and lifelong learning for ocean literacy.

### **Goal 15, Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

66. We reaffirm our commitment to protect, conserve, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss and to implement all targets of Sustainable Development Goal 15.

67. We emphasize that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services that it provides, supports all forms of life on Earth and underpins sustainable development in all its dimensions. We acknowledge with grave concern that the interrelated challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, deforestation, land degradation and desertification, ocean and freshwater degradation, pollution, and increasing risks to human health and food security pose an ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat to the achievement of sustainable development. We note with deep concern the continuous trend in desertification and land degradation and the fact that the impacts of deforestation, desertification, drought and floods are challenges of global dimension, felt most strongly by developing countries, as well as people in vulnerable situations, especially indigenous peoples and local communities. We also recognize that combating deforestation, desertification, land degradation and drought is important for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. We emphasize the urgent need to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation by 2030, as part of implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting an inclusive economic transformation in rural areas, also recalling the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030.

68. We emphasize the necessity to build on and strengthen the complementarity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the three Rio conventions – on biodiversity, climate change and desertification – in order to promote a coherent approach to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation.

69. We emphasize the urgent need for the sustainable management of forests and the protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, drylands, mountains and other natural ecosystems, particularly those in protected areas, which act as natural sinks and reservoirs of biodiversity and greenhouse gases, reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts, allowing the continuity of the hydrological cycle. Those also support the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities

who depend on ecosystems for their livelihoods and have a key role in their stewardship, and we recall protecting the rights of indigenous peoples under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>20</sup> and international human rights law. We further emphasize that forests, wetlands, drylands, mountain ecosystems and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable development and that climate change and global warming continue to pose a direct threat to them.

70. We recognize the importance of nature-based solutions,<sup>21</sup> ecosystem-based approaches, that protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, addressing social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively. We stress the importance of providing long-term and affordable investments in these approaches and stepping up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation, erosion and drought, floods, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and water pollution, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ensuring ecosystem functions and services and resilience and biodiversity benefits, and contributing to planetary and human health as well as socioeconomic development. We further recognize that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding adaptive capacity and resilience to fragile ecosystems, including agroecosystems, and making them less vulnerable. We continue to call for increased political will, the provision and mobilization of resources, capacity-building, mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors, technical and scientific cooperation and momentum for ecosystem conservation and restoration and the promotion of these approaches for disaster risk reduction to achieve sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels.

71. We reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030<sup>22</sup> and its global forest goals. We welcome the outcome of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held from 9 to 13 May 2022, and we also reaffirm the role of the Forum in promoting sustainable management and conservation of forests, as well as the mobilization of means of implementation, including the promotion of traditional knowledge related to forests, technical cooperation, technical assistance and financial resources, especially for developing countries. We also take note with appreciation of the recent forest-related declarations, pledges and developments, including but not limited to the forest-relevant contributions of the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

72. Recalling that 2022 is the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, we stress that sustainable use, protection, conservation and restoration of mountain ecosystems contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recognize the important role of their cryosphere, particularly to biodiversity, food production and fresh water, highlight their cultural importance, and call for the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to developing mountain countries, particularly to eradicate poverty, eliminate food insecurity and address biodiversity loss.

73. We call upon Member States to support efforts to implement the strategic objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

<sup>20</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>21</sup> As defined in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, entitled “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5).

<sup>22</sup> See General Assembly resolution 71/285.



Africa,<sup>23</sup> and strongly encourage the parties to the Convention to align their national policies with the 2018–2030 strategic framework of the Convention.<sup>24</sup> We call for actions to combat sand and dust storms and recognize them as a serious challenge to sustainable development in the affected countries and regions.

74. We support the development of an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective, robust and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework, building on and going beyond the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020<sup>25</sup> and aligned with the 2030 Agenda, with a level of ambition that will facilitate the changes needed to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, including in terms of implementation and mainstreaming of biodiversity into all sectors and policies. We welcome the convening of the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Kunming, China, under the proposed theme of the host, and take note of the Kunming Declaration of its high-level segment. We look forward to the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference, in Montreal, Canada, and to its outcome, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

75. We highlight the need for long-term and affordable financing for biodiversity, including to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to enhance the mobilization of resources from all sources, public and private, maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of existing resources and facilitating access to support where needed, in order to significantly scale up support for biodiversity through capacity-building, scientific and technical cooperation, voluntary technology transfer to developing countries. In this regard, we note that incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are to be eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are to be developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

## **Goal 17, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

76. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and implement all targets of Sustainable Development Goal 17.

77. Recalling the centrality of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, we reaffirm the outcome document of the 2022 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.<sup>26</sup>

78. We reaffirm that resource mobilization is crucial for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. Fulfilling official development assistance (ODA) commitments is urgent, as international public finance is critical for supporting the sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while taking into consideration that domestic and international efforts and enabling environments need to go hand in hand, and domestic revenue mobilization needs to be complemented with support from all sources. We

<sup>23</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>24</sup> [ICCD/COP\(13\)/21/Add.1](#), decision 7/COP.13, annex.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27](#), annex, decision X/2, annex.

<sup>26</sup> [E/FFDF/2022/3](#).

note that official development assistance (ODA) reached its highest level in 2020 during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis and underscore the need for this trend to continue. We urge development partners to scale up and fulfil their ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries.

79. We recognize that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels. Sound social, environmental and economic policies, including countercyclical fiscal policies, adequate fiscal space, good governance at all levels and democratic and transparent institutions responsive to the needs of the people are necessary to achieve our goals. We also emphasize the need to mobilize domestic resources, including by improving tax administration and capacity for other revenue mobilization, as well as meeting the commitments in effectively preventing corruption and money-laundering. We recommit to preventing and combating illicit financial flows and strengthening international cooperation and good practices on assets return and recovery. We will strengthen international cooperation and national institutions to combat money-laundering and financing of terrorism. We note the report of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda.

80. We are concerned that surging global public debt is compounding debt vulnerabilities that predated the pandemic. We note with concern that about 60 per cent of least developed countries and other low-income countries are now assessed to be at high risk of or already in debt distress, while around a quarter of middle-income countries remain at high risk. We further note that 60 per cent of countries downgraded during the COVID-19 pandemic by credit rating agencies are middle-income countries. We are also concerned that interest costs are rising in the poorest countries and remain elevated in small island developing States, as they grapple with higher interest rates, slower recoveries, credit rating downgrades and persistent revenue shortfalls. We emphasize that debt financing can enable countries to respond to emergencies and fund long-term investments to achieve sustainable development. We reaffirm the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, and sound debt management, as appropriate.

81. We welcome the multilateral response to the pandemic, including the Group of 20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative, while noting the lack of participation of private creditors. We acknowledge the ongoing implementation of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and stress the importance of stepping up efforts to improve and implement the Common Framework in a timely, orderly and coordinated manner. We encourage the Group of 20 and Paris Club creditors to discuss options for implementing comparability of treatment of private and other official bilateral creditors, expanding support to highly indebted developing countries, considering the provision of temporary debt standstills on a case-by-case basis throughout negotiations, and facilitating rapid recovery of capital market access following restructuring. These enhancements would give more certainty to debtor countries and facilitate the International Monetary Fund’s and multilateral development banks’ quick provision of financial support.

82. We emphasize the need to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product (GDP) in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation.

83. We stress that partnerships will be critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as an effective instrument for mobilizing additional human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge. We note the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the public and private sectors and partnerships with civil society, to foster strategic long-term investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in areas that could contribute more to recover from COVID-19 and its resulting social and economic impacts, including through innovative financing, inter alia, in health systems, including universal health coverage. We similarly encourage targeted measures and partnerships related to poverty eradication; food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems and related supply chains; water; digital connectivity; job creation; social protection; the care economy; sustainable and quality infrastructure development and growth in productivity.

84. We recognize the important role that institutions play in shaping the conditions that affect financial flows and the mobilization of capital for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We commit to support the implementation of integrated national financing frameworks to align financing policies and strategies with national investment priorities, legal frameworks, and disaster risk and sustainable development strategies consistent with the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement’s long-term goals. We will take concrete steps to incentivize and scale up long-term affordable private finance for investments that contribute to and align with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. We also recognize the need to make private business more accountable for its impact on sustainable development and develop innovative financial mechanisms to support sustainable business models.

85. We welcome and reiterate the role of international development cooperation, especially North-South cooperation, which remains a fundamental catalyst for sustainable development. We welcome and reiterate the important contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the achievement of the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic; we reaffirm that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and is an important element of international cooperation for development. We acknowledge the need to enhance development effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation.

86. We encourage international cooperation in supporting statistical capacity-building and data access in developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in producing, collecting, analysing and using high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data and statistics. We encourage the United Nations system and all relevant actors to take advantage of emerging technologies and their applications, as appropriate, in order to maximize impact and effectiveness in data analysis and collection and stress the need to bridge the digital gap among and within countries.

87. We highlight the importance of continuing efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles.

88. We note the adoption by the Statistical Commission of the proposed new indicator 17.3.1 under Sustainable Development Goal target 17.3 (Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources). We will continue to hold open, inclusive and transparent discussions on the modernization of ODA measurement and the new measure of “total official support for sustainable

development” and we affirm that any such measure will not dilute commitments already made.

89. We invite the international community and all relevant stakeholders, without prejudice to ongoing support, to cooperate and mobilize resources and expertise, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and countries of origin of refugees, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees and displaced persons in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality for humanitarian action.

90. We note the challenges faced by developing countries graduating from the least developed country category, particularly for graduating countries that are highly vulnerable to shocks and other disasters. While we recognize that progress has been made towards graduation from the least developed country category, there remain significant challenges in meeting the graduation criteria and in ensuring sustainable and irreversible graduation. We encourage the Committee for Development Policy to continue to engage with least developed countries, graduating countries and countries recently graduated from the least developed country category so that the full extent of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 are understood, in line with the work of the Committee on sustainable development and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

91. We call for sustainable, inclusive, affordable and resilient global and regional value chains and transport systems, including to and from landlocked developing countries, to help to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and other existing challenges and prevent future disruptions, while recognizing that regional economic integration is an important driver for sustainable development and integration into the global economy.

92. We reaffirm our commitment to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization.

93. We welcome the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the commencement of trading under the Agreement on 1 January 2021 to strengthen efforts aimed at doubling intra-African trade, which is strengthening Africa’s resilience, post-COVID-19 recovery and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

94. We stress the role of financial inclusion as an essential tool to promote sustainable development, through increased and inclusive access to credit, financial products and services, including concessional ones, especially for women, and for improved public and private resource management. We recognize the role of digital inclusion as a means to enhance financial inclusion for all.

95. We welcome the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and take note of the adoption of its outcome document entitled “Bridgetown Covenant”.

## IV. Other priority issues

96. We emphasize the need for concerted action to implement the outcomes of all relevant major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

97. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. We note with serious concern the findings in the contribution of Working Group I, Working Group II and Working Group III to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, including that climate and weather extremes and their adverse impacts on people and nature will continue to increase with every additional increment of rising temperatures. We urge the full implementation of existing global and national climate commitments from all public and private actors. We urge the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the Glasgow Climate Pact, and will work towards an ambitious twenty-seventh session (COP 27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

98. We reaffirm the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. We recognize that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5 C compared with 2 C and resolve to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 C. We recognize that limiting global warming to 1.5 C requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases. We recognize that this requires accelerated action in this critical decade, on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and equity, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. In accordance with article 4 of the Paris Agreement, we also reiterate the aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing countries, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by source and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

99. We recall article 3 and article 4, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 11, of the Paris Agreement and request countries to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances. We urge countries that have not yet done so to communicate, by the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies referred to in article 4, paragraph 19, of the Paris Agreement towards just transitions to net zero emissions by or around mid-century, taking into account different national circumstances.

100. We reaffirm the importance of international collaboration on innovative climate action, including technological advancement, across all actors of society, sectors and regions, contributing to progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. We

recognize the need to ensure just transitions that promote sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, including through making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development, including through deployment and transfer of technology, and provision of support to developing countries.

101. We call upon parties to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies and the adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition.

102. We note with deep regret that the goal of developed countries to mobilize jointly 100 billion United States dollars per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation has not yet been met and welcome the increased pledges made by many developed countries and the Climate Finance Delivery Plan. We urge developed countries to fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges. We welcome with appreciation the initiation of deliberations on a new collective quantified goal on climate finance and look forward to the ad hoc work programme established under decision 9/CMA.3 and to engaging constructively in the actions contained therein.

103. We emphasize the need to mobilize climate finance from all sources to reach the level needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including significantly increasing support for developing countries, beyond USD 100 billion per year. We urge all developed countries to provide enhanced support, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and encourage other countries to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily. We further urge developed countries to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, recalling article 9, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.

104. We recognize the importance of the global goal on adaptation for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and welcome the launch of the comprehensive two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation.

105. We call upon multilateral development banks, other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation, and encourage countries to continue to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources.

106. We acknowledge that climate change has already caused and will increasingly cause loss and damage and that, as temperatures rise, impacts from climate and weather extremes, as well as slow-onset events, will pose an ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat. We welcome the decision to establish the Glasgow Dialogue between countries, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.

107. We recall the need for enhancing international cooperation to assist developing countries in ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern energy for all. In this regard, we take note of the high-level dialogue on energy held on 24 September 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in support of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. We take note of the Secretary-General’s proposed global road map for accelerated Sustainable Development Goal 7 action and reaffirm the need to continuously engage on the implementation of Goal 7.

108. We welcome the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, chaired and convened by the Secretary-General, and take note of its briefs on the three-dimensional crisis.

109. We recognize that inclusive and sustainable industrial development is an important source of economic diversification and productive capacity enhancement and income generation, allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards for all people, and provides technological solutions to environmentally sound industrialization. We call for deepening cooperation to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrialization and modernization of developing countries by providing, inter alia, support to domestic technology development, research and innovation, including through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and capacity-building on industrial production and manufacturing to help developing countries to better integrate into the global industrial, value and supply chains and markets.

110. We recognize the urgent need to create conditions for decent work for all, protect labour rights of all workers and achieve universal social protection, including by strengthening social protection systems. We take note with appreciation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, launched by the Secretary-General jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO). We will continue to take into account also the crucial role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in contributing to Sustainable Development Goal implementation through job creation and improving livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable, and promote support measures to engage micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in recovery efforts. We stress the need to enhance capacity-building and improve access to financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as promote financial inclusion. We also recognize the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and further stress that entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation could promote economic growth and create decent quality jobs. We stress the importance of developing policies to expand work opportunities and productivity in both rural and urban sectors by achieving and recovering economic growth, investing in human resource development, promoting technologies that generate productive employment, and encouraging self-employment, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises. We encourage countries to tackle the long-term structural challenges faced by rural populations and to establish social protection systems that are adapted to rural populations, address the multiple dimensions of poverty, and food insecurity in rural areas, invest in sustainable agricultural development and enhance multisectoral policies and national action plans to strengthen the resilience and adaptability of small-scale producers and family farmers.

111. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 6 and in order to enhance efforts to realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent other diseases, we need to urgently, inter alia, enhance efforts to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, improve water quality, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate, protect and restore

water-related ecosystems, also in order to ensure a sustainable supply of water for life, agriculture and food production and water-related ecosystems and their services and other benefits. We also recall the need to expand international cooperation and capacity-building to support developing countries in these regards and support the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. We recall the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, and its aim to further cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. We also call for an ambitious, pragmatic, inclusive and action-oriented United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in 2023.

112. We support emerging avenues in support of acceleration of the 2030 Agenda, such as the “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development and its implementation plan,<sup>27</sup> as a forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals while recognizing that the benefits of space will be brought to everyone, everywhere.

113. We recognize the positive role and contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including by enriching societies through human, socioeconomic and cultural capacities. We call upon Member States to take steps to support the full inclusion of migrants in the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, in line with national circumstances. Furthermore, we recommit to promoting faster, safer and cheaper remittances and, by 2030, reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. To this end, we will further develop existing conducive policy and regulatory environments that enable competition, regulation and innovation on the remittance market and provide instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families. We take note of the first Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, adopted by the General Assembly.<sup>28</sup>

114. We welcome the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level panel of experts to finalize a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States by the end of 2022. We look forward to the deliberations of the panel of experts that will inform the General Assembly on the work of the panel and we encourage the international community to consider multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance.

115. We acknowledge the critical role of young people as agents for sustainable development, climate action and peace. As critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for current and future generations, we emphasize the importance of engaging and supporting the full, effective, meaningful and inclusive participation of children, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>29</sup> and youth, particularly those in vulnerable situations, in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to including youth in the development, monitoring and implementation of intergenerational strategies and programmes designed to address their specific needs and to ensure that education, skills development and decent employment of young people, as well as youth agency and leadership are prioritized. In these regards, we take note of Youth2030: the United

<sup>27</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/3.

<sup>28</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/266, annex.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.



Nations Youth Strategy and we encourage its accelerated, system-wide implementation, as appropriate. We recognize the importance of the Economic and Social Council youth forum as a main platform for youth engagement in the work of the United Nations and we encourage additional engagement of youth in the sessions of the high-level political forum and other United Nations sessions and forums, including as part of national delegations as appropriate. We also commend the commitment of young people to climate action and we commit to meaningfully engage with youth in the relevant policy and decision-making processes, building upon relevant existing initiatives such as Youth4Climate, the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY) and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBD) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

116. We recognize that building sustainable, inclusive, equitable and resilient societies must begin with investing in all children and youth, respecting their rights and helping to ensure that from early childhood they grow up in a safe and healthy environment free from poverty and hunger, and all forms of discrimination, violence, neglect, bullying, abuse and exploitation, both in person and in digital contexts, and through the elimination of all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, paying specific attention to children affected by armed conflict. We recognize that preventing and addressing violations of their rights is key to facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustaining peace.

117. We welcome the growing contribution of the repositioned United Nations development system in maximizing the impact of United Nations action in support of countries’ implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## **V. Our road map for the way forward**

118. We call for a renewed global commitment to sustainable development to achieve a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the current global instability and conflicts, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as well as other systemic obstacles for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We urge countries to adopt sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies as an important element contributing to a sustainable global recovery and growth action and to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and drive transformative change towards more inclusive and just societies. We call for the implementation of the present declaration and reaffirm our commitment to the actions in the political declaration adopted at the 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Summit<sup>30</sup> and past ministerial declarations of the high-level political forum and recognize the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all relevant stakeholders, including through COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

119. In reaffirming the centrality of multilateralism and international cooperation and solidarity, with the United Nations at its core, in dealing with global challenges and accelerating actions for sustainable development, we take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”<sup>31</sup> as a concrete vision and a basis for further consideration by Member States to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action, inter alia.

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<sup>30</sup> General Assembly resolution 74/4, annex.

<sup>31</sup> [A/75/982](#).

120. We recommit to leaving no one behind and accelerating action to reduce inequalities, including, in particular, by strengthening international and national efforts for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We reaffirm that the realization of gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in decision- and policymaking is necessary and will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. All actions, including those with regard to the response and recovery from COVID-19, should be gender-responsive and ensure all women’s and girls’ full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

121. We recognize the need to increase and better align public and private resource mobilization in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. We also recognize the need to harness innovation and technology, including digital technology, and strengthen effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, noting the need to increase transparency and accountability.

122. We are committed to accelerate actions to address climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution crises, taking into account national circumstances, needs and priorities, by:

(a) Scaling up financial resources with the aim of achieving a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country-driven strategies and the priorities and needs of developing countries, and making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, in line with the Paris Agreement as well as the intergovernmental agreed outcomes under the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, including the Glasgow Climate Pact;

(b) Combating environmental pollution and enhancing our ability to sustainably use, restore and protect ecosystem services and prevent overexploitation of natural resources;

(c) Promoting the need for a sound management of chemicals and waste, in order to protect human and animal health and the environment worldwide and in particular working towards the adoption of a strengthened global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

(d) Strengthening local, national, regional and global efforts and funding for financial and technical cooperation to prevent, reduce and control pollution of all kinds and in all the environments;

(e) Realizing access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all and enhancing tools for effective implementation of water policies and strategies at all levels, by better integrating water issues into all other relevant sectors. We call for closing the water financing gap by mobilizing innovative and inclusive finances from public and private sources and international and domestic sources;

(f) Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

(g) In reviewing in depth Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15, we take note of the voluntary commitments by more than 100 Member States to ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land and of the ocean are protected or conserved within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030.

123. We urge additional global action in support of an equitable and sustainable economic recovery, amending imbalances in the global financial system and recommitting towards an equitable global economic system. We take note with interest of the Secretary-General’s proposal for convening a biennial summit to promote a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy. We underscore the importance of ensuring inclusivity in our discussions on macroeconomic and financial issues at the United Nations.

124. We recognize that infrastructure impacts the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Investment in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure is critical for the COVID-19 recovery and the achievement of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions. We reaffirm our strong political commitment to create an enabling environment at all levels, in order to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 9 to facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to them, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

125. We call for supporting increased foreign direct investments, particularly in developing countries, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing their key role for economic growth and development. We recognize that foreign direct investments can reduce inequalities and can help commodity-dependent countries to transition to manufacturing activities and other higher-value-added activities.

126. We resolve to address investment barriers, including high perceived and real risks related to sustainable investments in low- and middle-income countries and the lack of pipelines of bankable sustainable projects. In this regard, we recognize the important role of the United Nations development system, the World Bank, regional development banks and other multilateral institutions in addressing the capacity and funding gaps in sustainable and quality infrastructure investments, working through existing initiatives, and we resolve to take steps to deploy blended finance at scale, as appropriate, to utilize all infrastructure financing sources.

127. We call upon Member States with strong external positions to consider the voluntary channelling of special drawing rights to countries in need, in a timely manner, including through the International Monetary Fund Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. We look forward to the expedited operationalization of the International Monetary Fund Resilience and Sustainability Trust as a new mechanism to voluntarily channel special drawing rights to provide affordable long-term financing to low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries, with due consideration to national legal frameworks. We will continue to explore viable options to voluntarily channel special drawing rights through multilateral development banks.

128. We take note with appreciation of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General on 23 and 24 September 2021, as well as its pre-Summit, held from 26 to 28 July 2021 in Rome. We note also the Chair’s Summary and Statement of Action on the United Nations Food Systems Summit, issued by the Secretary-General. We also take note of the Nutrition for Growth Summit held in December 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. We call upon all actors to implement the respective voluntary commitments of the 2021 Food Systems Summit, including the national pathways and coalitions of action, as appropriate, building on regional and national priorities and respecting national policies and priorities. We take note of the establishment of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, and call upon

the United Nations system to work with the Hub in order to support Governments to develop and strengthen Sustainable Development Goal-based national pathways for sustainable food systems transformation, already developed by 117 countries. We encourage the relevant United Nations actors and the Hub to consult with countries on the format and modality of the 2023 stocktaking moment. We look forward to the reporting on the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit at the sessions of the high-level political forum. We also recall the important role of United Nations Rome-based agencies and of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We commit to advance integrated, balanced and holistic food system approaches, through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and intergenerational dialogue, to ensure food security and nutrition, reduce food loss and waste and build sustainable and resilient food systems.

129. We call upon countries and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, including capacity for seeding, protecting standing crops, rearing livestock, infrastructure for processing food, and all logistical systems, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimize food loss and waste, support workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilize and allocate adequate resources and enhance sustainable infrastructure and institutional capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, provide continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and provide adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition, and underline that this is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity and humanitarian needs. We remain committed to keeping a strong focus on the sustainable transformation of the global agrifood system, aiming for a global system that can deliver sufficient, safe, affordable, nutritious food and healthy diets for all people and provide employment and income, particularly in rural areas, while at the same time fully respecting planetary boundaries in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

130. We take note of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.<sup>32</sup> We reaffirm that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will continue to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage Member States that have not done so to submit their first-cycle national reports.

131. We recognize that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors that give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the 2030 Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring that women have a role in peacebuilding and State-building. We call for further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to

<sup>32</sup> [A/76/639-E/2022/10](#).

the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.

132. We reaffirm, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

133. We commit to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity. We call to take measures to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

134. We commit to a responsible and inclusive use of key enablers and multipliers for accelerated action for the Sustainable Development Goals, such as digital technologies and new and emerging tools, including by:

(a) Strengthening the science-policy interface through evidence-based policymaking and support for research and development. In this regard, we take note of the Co-Chairs’ summary of the seventh multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>33</sup>

(b) Accelerating global connectivity for all by 2030, while promoting digital cooperation and implementing policies on digital inclusion and closing the digital divides;

(c) Leveraging information and communications technology and science, technology and innovation to promote inclusive digital economy and connectivity and build resilience across sectors, infrastructure connectivity and technical assistance as well as innovation, and increasing digital skills and literacy, including media and information literacy, especially in developing countries;

(d) Leveraging rapid technological change, which can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation”<sup>34</sup> and the ongoing work of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and we look forward to further discussions on the proposed Global Digital Compact;

(e) Reaffirming that any use of digital technologies must protect and respect the same human rights that people have, offline and online, with special regard given to the protection of children and people in vulnerable situations, in line with relevant regulations.

135. We commit to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels, including through involving and empowering local authorities to ensure local ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through the empowerment of citizens, communities, civil society and local organizations, in order to ensure local implementation of development priorities.

136. We appeal to the international community and national Governments to work together to ensure development and investments in national statistical and data ecosystems that enable high-quality, timely, open and reliable data, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts for evidence-based decision-

<sup>33</sup> See [E/HLPF/2022/6](#).

<sup>34</sup> [A/74/821](#).

making and to ensure that every individual is represented. We commit to strengthening partnerships to provide a rapid response in times of uncertainty when timely data are needed the most. We stress the importance of risk-informed and science-based policies, prevention and response to future health emergencies, building resilience, and reliable data collection.

137. We reaffirm that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other obstacles that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda. We call upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the recently adopted Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries<sup>35</sup> and the 2030 Agenda in the least developed countries, in line with our collective pledge to leave no one behind. We look forward to the convening of the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will be held in Doha in 2023.

138. We welcome the decision to hold the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in 2024 to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>36</sup> and to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and to strengthen partnerships between the landlocked developing countries and transit countries and their development partners.

139. We welcome the decision to convene a fourth United Nations conference on small island developing States (SIDs), to be held in 2024, given the short remaining years of the mandates of the SAMOA Pathway,<sup>37</sup> underlining the urgency of finding additional solutions to the unique and particular vulnerabilities facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action,<sup>38</sup> the Mauritius Strategy<sup>39</sup> and the SAMOA Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

140. We also look forward to the mapping exercise to be conducted by the Secretary-General to provide a detailed overview of the current support available to middle-income countries aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries. We also look forward to the meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly during the seventy-seventh session of the Assembly, to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

141. We recognize the importance of the recent major conferences and their outcomes, including the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention (COP 26), the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the

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<sup>35</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/258, annex.

<sup>36</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

<sup>37</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>38</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>39</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) and UNEP@50, and the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 15), and we recognize further the importance of the Stockholm+50 international meeting, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess the progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations Ocean Conference, the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC 5), as well as the extension by the General Assembly of the mandate of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to 2030, and take note of the decision of the board of the 10-Year Framework to continue the development of a new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

142. We encourage ambitious and action-oriented outcomes for the other major events, including the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention (COP 27) in 2022, the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), the Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, the high-level meetings on tuberculosis and universal health coverage, the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023, as well as the Secretary-General’s upcoming Transforming Education Summit and the Summit of the Future. We encourage all countries to participate in the September 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit at the highest possible level. We call upon countries and institutions to take measures to make progress in the 10 cross-cutting accelerated action areas identified in the political declaration of the 2019 Summit between now and September 2023. We will use the 2023 Summit to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development and follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including through national and regional consultations. We invite the Secretary-General to mobilize Governments, the United Nations system and stakeholders in preparing for the Summit so that it marks the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, at its 16th meeting, on 15 July 2022, and at the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Council, at the 32nd plenary meeting, on 18 July 2022*



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
25 July 2022

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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda items 20 and 78 (a)

### Sustainable development

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 July 2022

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/76/L.72)]

### 76/296. Our ocean, our future, our responsibility

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution [73/292](#) of 9 May 2019 and its decision 75/578 of 9 September 2021, in which it decided that the high-level 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development would be held in in Lisbon, from 27 June to 1 July 2022,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Governments of Kenya and Portugal for discharging their co-hosting responsibilities by assuming the costs of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and its preparatory process and for providing all necessary support;

2. Endorses the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” adopted by the Conference, as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting  
21 July 2022

### Annex

#### Our ocean, our future, our responsibility

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives meeting in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022 at the United Nations Conference to Support





the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the overarching theme, “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”, with the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources. Greater ambition is required at all levels to address the dire state of the ocean. As leaders and representatives of our Governments, we are determined to act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems.

2. We reaffirm the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017.

3. We recognize that the ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. The ocean is an important source of the planet’s biodiversity and plays a vital role in the climate system and water cycle. The ocean provides a range of ecosystem services, supplies us with oxygen to breathe, contributes to food security, nutrition and decent jobs and livelihoods, acts as a sink and reservoir of greenhouse gases and protects biodiversity, provides a means for maritime transportation, including for global trade, forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage and plays an essential role in sustainable development, a sustainable ocean-based economy and poverty eradication. We underline the interlinkages and potential synergies between Goal 14 and the other Sustainable Development Goals and recognize that the implementation of Goal 14 can contribute significantly to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, which is integrated and indivisible in its nature.

4. We are therefore deeply alarmed by the global emergency facing the ocean. Sea levels are rising, coastal erosion is worsening and the ocean is warmer and more acidic. Marine pollution is increasing at an alarming rate, a third of fish stocks are overexploited, marine biodiversity continues to decrease and approximately half of all living coral has been lost, while alien invasive species pose a significant threat to marine ecosystems and resources. While progress has been made towards the achievement of some of the targets of Goal 14, action is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet our goals. We deeply regret our collective failure to achieve targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 that matured in 2020, and we renew our commitment to taking urgent action and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay.

5. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we are deeply alarmed by the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean and marine life, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, the decrease in polar ice coverage, shifts in the abundance and distribution of marine species, including fish, the decrease in marine biodiversity, as well as coastal erosion and extreme weather events and related impacts on island and coastal communities, as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and its successive reports.

6. We emphasize the particular importance of implementing the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the goal to limit the temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and help to ensure the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and thus our future. We recall that article 2.2 of the Paris

Agreement states that it will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. We also emphasize the need to adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change. We reaffirm the importance of implementing the Glasgow Climate Pact on mitigation, adaptation and the provision and mobilization of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries, including small island developing States. We welcome the decision by the parties to the Framework Convention to recognize the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, to deliver crucial services, including acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and supporting sustainable livelihoods, including for indigenous peoples and local communities. We further welcome the invitation to relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the Framework Convention to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in relevant mandates and workplans and the invitation to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.

7. We are deeply concerned by the findings about cumulative human impacts on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions, as highlighted in the second *World Ocean Assessment* and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, as well as on food safety and human health as recognized in the One Health approach. We recognize the need for transformative change and are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health of the ocean's ecosystems and biodiversity and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We call for an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective, robust and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We take note of the voluntary commitments by more than 100 Member States to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of the global ocean within marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030. We emphasize that strong governance and adequate financing for developing countries, in particular small island developing States, is essential to effectively implement and maintain such areas and measures. We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and its call to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

8. We welcome the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities.

9. We recognize the devastating impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the ocean-based economy and in particular the ocean-based economies of small island developing States, which have been disproportionately adversely affected by the pandemic, given their dependence on the ocean-based economy, as well as on seafarers and the fishing community. We also recognize the threat to ocean health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic due to improper waste management, including of plastic waste, such as personal protective equipment, which has exacerbated the problem of marine plastic litter and microplastics in the ocean. We

affirm that the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and the advancement of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches play a critical role in ensuring a sustainable, inclusive and environmentally resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. We emphasize that our actions to implement Goal 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”. We note that 2022 marks the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention.

11. We recognize the importance of the work being undertaken by the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and call upon participating delegations to reach an ambitious agreement without delay.

12. We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and its vision to achieve the science we need for the ocean we want. We support the Decade’s mission to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond. We fully support the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in implementing the Decade and commit to supporting these efforts.

13. We stress that science-based and innovative actions and international cooperation and partnerships based in science, technology and innovation, in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches, can contribute to the solutions necessary to overcome challenges in achieving Goal 14 in the following ways:

(a) Informing integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making, through improving our understanding of the impact of cumulative human activities on the ocean and anticipating the impacts of planned activities and eliminating or minimizing their negative effects, as well as the effectiveness of adopted measures;

(b) Restoring and maintaining fish stocks at levels that produce at least maximum sustainable yield in the shortest time feasible, including by implementing science-based management plans, and minimizing waste, unwanted by-catch and discards, as well as combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through technological tools for monitoring, control and surveillance, and ending harmful subsidies in line with target 14.6, as well as through the use of an ecosystem approach to fisheries that protects essential habitats and promotes collaborative processes for decision-making that include all stakeholders, including small-scale and artisanal fisheries, recognizing their role in poverty eradication and ending food insecurity, and the importance of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture;

(c) Mobilizing actions for sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for sufficient, safe and nutritious food, recognizing the central role of healthy oceans in resilient food systems and for achieving the 2030 Agenda;

(d) Preventing, reducing and controlling marine pollution of all kinds, from both land- and sea-based sources, including nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater,

solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, emissions from the maritime sector, including shipping, pollution from shipwrecks and anthropogenic underwater noise, through improving our understanding of their sources, pathways and impacts on marine ecosystems, and through contributing to comprehensive life-cycle and source-to-sea approaches that include improved waste management;

(e) Preventing, reducing and eliminating marine plastic litter, including single-use plastics and microplastics, including through contributing to comprehensive life-cycle approaches, encouraging resource efficiency and recycling, as well as environmentally sound waste management, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, developing viable alternatives for consumer and industrial uses, taking into account the full environmental impacts, innovation in product design and environmentally sound remediation of marine plastic litter that is already in marine environments, and recognizing the establishment by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session of an intergovernmental negotiating committee towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution;

(f) Effectively planning and implementing area-based management tools, including effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected marine protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, through, inter alia, assessing their multiple ecological, socioeconomic and cultural value and applying the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach, in accordance with national legislation and international law;

(g) Developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and avert, minimize and address loss and damage, reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience, including through increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, especially ocean-based technologies, reducing the risk of and preparing for ocean-related extreme weather events, including the development of multi-hazard early warning systems and integrating ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and the impacts of sea level rise, reducing emissions from maritime transportation, including shipping, and implementing nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches for, inter alia, carbon sequestration and the prevention of coastal erosion.

14. We commit to taking the following science-based and innovative actions on an urgent basis, recognizing that developing countries, in particular small island developing States and the least developed countries, face capacity challenges that need to be addressed:

(a) Strengthen international, regional, subregional and national scientific and systematic observation and data collection efforts, including of environmental and socioeconomic data, especially in developing countries, and improve the timely sharing and dissemination of data and knowledge, including by making data widely accessible through open access databases, investing in national statistical systems, standardizing data, ensuring interoperability between databases, and synthesizing data into information for policymakers and decision makers, and support capacity-building in developing countries to improve data collection and analysis;

(b) Recognize the important role of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of social science in planning, decision-making and implementation;

(c) Enhance cooperation at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels in order to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration, knowledge-sharing

and exchange of best practices within marine scientific research, including through South-South and triangular cooperation and to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology, including through strengthening science, technology and innovation infrastructure, domestic innovation capabilities, absorptive capacities and the capacity of national statistical systems, in particular in the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in collecting, analysing and using reliable data and statistics;

(d) Establish effective partnerships, including multi-stakeholder, public-private, cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and scientific partnerships, including by incentivizing the sharing of good practices, giving visibility to well-performing partnerships and creating space for meaningful interaction and networking and capacity-building;

(e) Explore, develop and promote innovative financing solutions to drive the transformation to sustainable ocean-based economies, and the scaling up of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches to support the resilience, restoration and conservation of coastal ecosystems, including through public-private sector partnerships and capital market instruments, provide technical assistance to enhance the bankability and feasibility of projects, as well as mainstream the values of marine natural capital into decision-making and address barriers to accessing financing, recognizing that further support is needed from developed countries, especially regarding capacity-building, financing and technology transfer;

(f) Empower women and girls, as their full, equal and meaningful participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14, and mainstream a gender perspective in our work to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources;

(g) Ensure that people, especially children and youth, are empowered with relevant knowledge and skills that enable them to understand the importance of and the need to contribute to the health of the ocean, including in decision-making, through promoting and supporting quality education and lifelong learning for ocean literacy;

(h) Strengthen the science-policy interface for implementing Goal 14 and its targets, to ensure that policy is informed by the best-available science and relevant indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, and to highlight policies and actions that may be scalable, through processes such as the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects;

(i) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international maritime transportation, especially shipping, as soon as possible, acknowledging the leadership role of the International Maritime Organization, taking into account its initial strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships, looking forward to its upcoming review and noting the need to strengthen its ambitions in order to meet the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, while setting clear interim goals, ensuring that investments in research and development and in new infrastructure such as ports and ships increase resilience in the face of climate impacts and leave no one behind, and noting that the impacts on Member States of a measure should be assessed and taken into account as appropriate before adoption of the measure, and particular attention should be paid to the needs of developing countries, especially small island developing States and the least developed countries.

15. We commit to implementing our respective voluntary commitments made in the context of the Conference and urge those who have made voluntary commitments at the 2017 Conference to ensure appropriate review and follow-up of their progress.

16. We strongly call upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to support the implementation of Goal 14 in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by enhancing inter-agency coordination and coherence throughout the United Nations system on ocean issues, through the work of UN-Oceans.

17. We know that restoring harmony with nature through a healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient ocean is critical for our planet, our lives and our future. We call upon all stakeholders to urgently take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Goal 14 as soon as possible without undue delay.

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**Report of the Global Conference  
on the Sustainable Development  
of Small Island Developing States**

**Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994**



**United Nations • New York, 1994**

## NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Chapter I

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

Resolution 1

Adoption of texts on the sustainable development of small  
island developing States

The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island  
Developing States,

Having met in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

1. Adopts the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which are annexed to the present resolution;
2. Recommends to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-ninth session that it endorse the texts referred to in paragraph 1 above.

## Annex I

### DECLARATION OF BARBADOS

We the States participating in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Having met in Bridgetown, Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1/ Agenda 21 2/ and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 3/ which were adopted by the nations of the world at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on 14 June 1992, as well as in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 4/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity, 5/

Recognizing that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States translates Agenda 21 into specific policies, actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development,

#### Part One

Affirm that:

##### I

1. The survival of small island developing States is firmly rooted in their human resources and cultural heritage, which are their most significant assets; those assets are under severe stress and all efforts must be taken to ensure the central position of people in the process of sustainable development.
2. Sustainable development programmes must seek to enhance the quality of life of peoples, including their health, well-being and safety.
3. Full attention should be given to gender equity and to the important role and contribution of women, as well as to the needs of women and other major groups, including children, youth and indigenous people.

##### II

Small island developing States have sovereign rights over their own natural resources. Their biodiversity is among the most threatened in the world and their ecosystems provide ecological corridors linking major areas of biodiversity around the world. They bear responsibility for a significant portion of the world's oceans and seas and their resources. The efforts of small island developing States to conserve, protect and restore their ecosystems deserve international cooperation and partnership.

### III

1. Small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to natural as well as environmental disasters and have a limited capacity to respond to and recover from such disasters.

2. While small island developing States are among those that contribute least to global climate change and sealevel rise, they are among those that would suffer most from the adverse effects of such phenomena and could in some cases become uninhabitable. Therefore, they are among those particularly vulnerable States that need assistance under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including adaptation measures and mitigation efforts.

3. Small island developing States share with all nations a critical interest in the protection of coastal zones and oceans against the effects of land-based sources of pollution.

4. Limited freshwater resources, increasing amounts of waste and hazardous substances, and limited facilities for waste disposal combine to make pollution prevention, waste management and the transboundary movement of hazardous materials critical issues for small island developing States.

### IV

Small island developing States are limited in size, have vulnerable economies and are dependent both upon narrow resource bases and on international trade, without the means of influencing the terms of that trade.

### V

To enhance their national capacities and self-reliance, small island developing States, with the assistance and support of the international community, should actively promote human resources development programmes including education, training and skills development. Their institutional and administrative capacity to implement the programme of action must be strengthened at all levels by supportive partnerships and cooperation, including technical assistance, the further development of legislation and mechanisms for information sharing.

### VI

There is an urgent need in small island developing States to address the constraints to sustainable development, including scarce land resources, which lead to difficult land and agriculture use decisions; limited fresh water; education and training needs; health and human settlement requirements; inordinate pressures on coastal and marine environment and resources; and limited means available to exploit natural resources on a sustainable basis.

### VII

1. The special role of non-governmental organizations and the importance of a partnership between Governments, intergovernmental organizations and agencies, non-governmental organizations and other major groups in implementing Agenda 21 and the programme of action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels should be recognized.

2. That partnership should include efforts to increase public awareness of the outcomes and follow-up of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through all available means of communication.

## Part Two

### Declare that:

#### I

Based on the principle of the right to development, small island developing States should, in accordance with their own priorities, endeavour to achieve the goals of sustainable development by, inter alia, formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes that take into account development, health and environmental goals, strengthening national institutions, and mobilizing all available resources, all of which are aimed at improving the quality of life.

#### II

Through regional and subregional cooperation, small island developing States and the international community should encourage strong functional cooperation in the promotion of sustainable development by sharing information and technology, strengthening institutions and building capacity.

#### III

1. The international community should cooperate with small island developing States in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States by providing effective means, including adequate, predictable new and additional financial resources in accordance with chapter 33 of Agenda 21; facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technology, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries; and promoting fair, equitable and non-discriminatory trading arrangements and a supportive international economic system.

2. The international community has a responsibility to facilitate the efforts of small island developing States to minimize the stress on their fragile ecosystems, including through cooperative action and partnership.

3. To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, including people of small island developing States, all States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and should promote appropriate demographic policies.

4. The international community should build new and equitable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States through the implementation of the Programme of Action and should send a powerful message to the world's peoples on the possibilities of joint action undertaken with a sense of common purpose and partnership.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

2/ Ibid., annex II.

3/ Ibid., annex III.

4/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1, annex I.

5/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

Annex II

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

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## PREAMBLE

1. In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the world community adopted Agenda 21. 1/ Agenda 21 reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation. The cooperation of all States is a prerequisite for the fulfilment of the objectives of Agenda 21. Such cooperation must also respond to the special circumstances and particular vulnerabilities of countries through adequate and specific approaches.

2. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is the first global conference on sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21. Agenda 21 represents a comprehensive document, carefully negotiated and wherever referred to in the present Programme of Action should be looked to as a whole.

3. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 2/ identifies human beings as being at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. Development initiatives in small island developing States should be seen in relation to both the needs and aspirations of human beings and their responsibility towards present and future generations. Small island developing States have valuable resources, including oceans, coastal environments, biodiversity and, most importantly, human resources. Their potential is recognized, but the challenge for small island developing States is to ensure that they are used in a sustainable way for the well-being of present and future generations. Although they are afflicted by economic difficulties and confronted by development imperatives similar to those of developing countries generally, small island developing States also have their own peculiar vulnerabilities and characteristics, so that the difficulties they face in the pursuit of sustainable development are particularly severe and complex.

4. There are many disadvantages that derive from small size, which are magnified by the fact that many island States are not only small but are themselves made up of a number of small islands. Those disadvantages include a narrow range of resources, which forces undue specialization; excessive dependence on international trade and hence vulnerability to global developments; high population density, which increases the pressure on already limited resources; overuse of resources and premature depletion; relatively small watersheds and threatened supplies of fresh water; costly public administration and infrastructure, including transportation and communication; and limited institutional capacities and domestic markets, which are too small to provide significant scale economies, while their limited export volumes, sometimes from remote locations, lead to high freight costs and reduced competitiveness. Small islands tend to have high degrees of endemism and levels of biodiversity, but the relatively small numbers of the various species impose high risks of extinction and create a need for protection.

5. The small size of small island developing States means that development and environment are closely interrelated and interdependent. Recent human history contains examples of entire islands rendered uninhabitable through environmental destruction owing to external causes; small island developing States are fully aware that the environmental consequences of ill-conceived development can have catastrophic effects. Unsustainable development threatens not only the livelihood of people but also the islands themselves and the cultures they nurture. Climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise are issues of grave concern. Similarly, the biological resources on which small island



developing States depend are threatened by the large-scale exploitation of marine and terrestrial living resources.

6. Many small island developing States are entirely or predominantly coastal entities. Due to the small size, isolation and fragility of island ecosystems, their renowned biological diversity is among the most threatened in the world. This requires that in pursuing development special attention be paid to protecting the environment and people's livelihoods. It also requires the integrated management of resources.

7. In some small island developing States, the rate of population growth exceeds the rate of economic growth, placing serious and increasing pressure on the capacity of those countries to provide basic services to their people and placing a heavy burden on women in particular as heads of households. Although their population density may be high, many small island developing States have small populations in absolute terms, insufficient to generate economies of scale in several areas, and they therefore have limited scope for the full utilization of certain types of highly specialized expertise. They experience high levels of migration, particularly of skilled human resources, which not only places an undue burden on training facilities but also forces them to import high-cost foreign expertise.

8. The lack of opportunities for achieving economies of scale, together with their narrow resource base, tends to limit the total production of small island developing States to a narrow range of crops, minerals and industries, both manufacturing and services. Any adverse development concerning those productive sectors, whether arising from market factors, natural or environmental constraints, is likely to lead to significant reductions in output, a fall in foreign-exchange earnings and increased unemployment.

9. Partly because of their small size and partly because of their vulnerability to natural and environmental disasters, most small island developing States are classified as high-risk entities, which has led to insurance and reinsurance being either unavailable or exorbitantly expensive, with adverse consequences for investment, production costs, government finances and infrastructure.

10. Because the per capita income of many small island developing States tends to be higher than that of developing countries as a group, they tend to have limited access to concessionary resources. However, analysis of the economic performance of small island developing States suggests that current incomes are often facilitated by migrant remittances, preferential market access for some major exports and assistance from the international community, sources which are neither endogenous nor secure. Furthermore, those incomes have generally been unstable over time: natural and man-made disasters, difficulties in the international market for particular commodities and recession in some developed economies often reduce incomes in small island developing States dramatically, sometimes by as much as 20 to 30 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in a single year.

11. Because small island development options are limited, they present special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development. To meet that challenge, the most valuable asset of small island developing States is their human resources, which need to be given every opportunity to fulfil their potential and contribute meaningfully to national, regional and international development consistent with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. Small island developing States will be constrained in meeting

those challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community. The sustainable development of small island developing States requires actions that address the above constraints to development. Those actions should integrate environmental considerations and natural resource conservation objectives and gender considerations consistent with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, into the development of social and economic development policies in international, regional, subregional and/or bilateral cooperative programmes related to islands.

12. Within small island developing States the critical contribution of women to sustainable development and the involvement of youth to the long-term success of Agenda 21 should be fully recognized. Accordingly, youth should be encouraged to contribute to the decision-making process and all obstacles to the equal participation of women in this process should be eliminated to allow both youth and women to participate in and benefit from the sustainable development of their particular societies.

13. Sharing a common aspiration for economic development and improved living standards, small island developing States are determined that the pursuit of material benefits should not undermine social, religious and cultural values or cause any permanent harm to either their people or their land and marine resources, which have sustained island life for many centuries. In Agenda 21, the international community committed itself to:

(a) Adopt and implement plans and programmes to support the sustainable development and utilization of the marine and coastal resources of small island developing States, including meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of life for island people;

(b) Adopt measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and sustainably with environmental change, as well as to mitigate impacts on and reduce threats posed to marine and coastal resources.

Those commitments were later incorporated into General Assembly resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, which called for a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States.

14. In establishing the basis for a new global partnership for sustainable development, States have acknowledged their common but differentiated responsibilities in respect of global environmental degradation as stated in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Principle 6 states that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. Under chapter 17, section G of Agenda 21, small island developing States and islands supporting small communities are recognized as a special case for both environment and development, because they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable and their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets all place them at a disadvantage economically and prevent economies of scale.

15. It is in that context that the present Programme of Action addresses the special challenges and constraints facing small island developing States. Because sustainable development is a process and not a phenomenon, the Programme of Action focuses on the next steps that can be taken along the comprehensive path to sustainable development which will follow the principles endorsed by Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Programme of Action contains a synopsis of actions and policies that should

be implemented over the short, medium and long terms. The reports of the regional technical meetings, held in preparation for the Global Conference, remain an important point of reference since they contain a broad collection of recommended actions for the pursuit of sustainable development in small island developing States.

16. The Programme of Action presents a basis for action in 14 agreed priority areas and defines a number of actions and policies related to environmental and development planning that should be undertaken by small island developing States with the cooperation and assistance of the international community. In general, financing for the implementation of the Programme of Action will come from countries' own public and private sectors. National elements, for inclusion in the medium- and long-term sustainable development plans of small island developing States, are recommended, along with the measures necessary for enhancing their endogenous capacity. Regional approaches to sustainable development/environment problems and technical cooperation for endogenous capacity-building are proposed. And the role of the international community is outlined, including its role in providing access to adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources; optimizing the use of existing resources and mechanisms in accordance with chapter 33 of Agenda 21; and adopting measures for supporting endogenous capacity-building, in particular for developing human resources and promoting the access of small island developing States to environmentally sound and energy-efficient technology for their sustainable development. In that context, non-governmental organizations and other major groups should be fully involved.

17. The Programme of Action identifies priority areas and indicates the specific actions that are necessary to address the special challenges faced by small island developing States. In fulfilling those actions, several cross-sectoral areas are identified, for example, capacity-building, including human resource development; institutional development at the national, regional and international levels; cooperation in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies; trade and economic diversification; and finance.

## I. CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEALEVEL RISE

### Basis for action

18. Small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise. As their population, agricultural land and infrastructure tend to be concentrated in the coastal zone, any rise in sealevel will have significant and profound effects on their economies and living conditions; the very survival of certain low-lying countries will be threatened. Inundation of outlying islands and loss of land above the high-tide mark may result in loss of exclusive economic rights over extensive areas and in the destruction of existing economic infrastructure as well as of existing human settlements. Global climate change may damage coral reefs, alter the distribution of zones of upwelling and affect both subsistence and commercial fisheries production. Furthermore, it may affect vegetation and saline intrusion may adversely affect freshwater resources. The increased frequency and intensity of the storm events that may result from climate change will also have profound effects on both the economies and the environments of small island developing States. Small island developing States require all available information concerning those aspects of climate change, as it may affect their ability to enable appropriate response strategies to be developed and implemented.

19. The process established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 3/ and the ongoing negotiations of its Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee are important international actions aimed at addressing the threat of climate change, mitigating its adverse impacts on small island developing States and assisting them in adapting to its adverse consequences. It is becoming clear that the commitments contained in Article 4.2 (a) and (b) of the Framework Convention, in particular those related to emissions of greenhouse gases, should be considered inadequate for the long term and further action may be required to make satisfactory progress towards achieving the objective of the Framework Convention. In that regard, the consideration at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the adequacy of those and all other relevant commitments under the Convention, in particular those aimed at achieving effective adaptive response measures, is of the utmost importance to small island developing States and the international community. The development and use of renewable sources of energy and the dissemination of sound and efficient energy technologies are seen as having a central role in mitigating the adverse impact of climate change.

A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Ensure early ratification of or accession to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 4/ and other related legal instruments.
- (ii) Monitor, survey and collect data on climate change and sealevel rise.
- (iii) Formulate comprehensive adjustment and mitigation policies for sealevel rise in the context of integrated coastal area management.
- (iv) Assess the effects and the socio-economic implications of the impact of climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise on small island developing States.
- (v) Map areas vulnerable to sealevel rise and develop computer-based information systems covering the results of surveys, assessments and observations as part of the development of adequate response strategies, adaptation policies and measures to minimize the impact of climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise.
- (vi) Improve public and political understanding of the potential impacts of climate change.
- (vii) Formulate comprehensive strategies and measures (including the preparation, facilitation and collection of information) on adaptation to climate change that would contribute to a better understanding of the range of issues associated with the development of methodologies to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.
- (viii) Promote a more efficient use of energy resources in development planning and use appropriate methods to minimize the adverse effects of climate change on the sustainable development of those resources.
- (ix) Increase participation in the bilateral, regional and global research, assessment, monitoring and mapping of climate impacts, including the

adoption of oceanographic and atmospheric measures and policies and the development of response strategies.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Create and/or strengthen programmes and projects to monitor and improve predictive capacity for climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise, and to assess the impacts of climate change on marine resources, freshwater and agricultural production, including pests.
- (ii) Develop and/or strengthen mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences among small island developing States, and to promote technology transfer and training in those States in response to climate change, including preparedness response.
- (iii) Provide technical assistance for ratification or accession to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and assist those Parties that have ratified the Framework Convention in assuming their major responsibilities under it.
- (iv) Support national efforts aimed at developing strategies and measures on adaptation to climate change as well as the development of technical guidelines and methodologies to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

#### C. International action

- (i) Implement immediately the prompt-start resolution agreed to by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- (ii) Support small island developing States in responding to the call by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for vulnerable coastal nations to develop integrated coastal zone management plans, including measures for responding adaptively to the impacts of climate change and sealevel rise.
- (iii) Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for monitoring variability and change of climate and sealevel rise, for assessing the impacts of climate change, and for developing and implementing response adaptation strategies in a timely manner, recognizing the specific vulnerabilities and disproportionate cost borne by small island developing States.
- (iv) Provide improved access to information from the activities carried out to reduce uncertainties of climate change and assist the inter-island exchange of this information.
- (v) Provide access to environmentally sound and energy-efficient technology to assist small island developing States in conserving energy.
- (vi) Support the activities of intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations aimed at assisting small island developing States in

coping effectively and creatively with climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise, including providing systems for systematic and continuous research, monitoring, surveying and data collection, as well as assessment, in the areas of climate change, climate variability and sealevel rise, coral reefs, the role of oceans in the world climate, tidal variations and the salt water intrusion of freshwater.

- (vii) Provide improved access to financial and technical resources to assist small island developing States, which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in meeting the costs associated with the development of national and regional strategies, measures and methodologies to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

## II. NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

### Basis for action

20. Small island developing States are prone to extremely damaging natural disasters, primarily in the form of cyclones, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. In some islands, the range of these disasters includes storm surges, landslides, extended droughts and extensive floods. A recent study by the former Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (currently the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat) has shown that at least 13 of the 25 most disaster-prone countries are small island developing States. Due to climate change, such events, including drought, are perceived to be occurring with increasing frequency and intensity. Natural disasters are of special concern to small island developing States because of their small size; their dependence on agriculture and tourism which are particularly vulnerable to natural and environmental disasters; their narrow resource base; and the pervasive impact of such events on their people, environment and economies, including the loss of insurance coverage. For countries affected by such natural disasters, those particular characteristics mean that the economic, social and environmental consequences are long-lasting and that the costs of rehabilitation are high as a percentage of gross national product (GNP). For similar reasons the impact of oil-spills and other environmental disasters can also be severe.

### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, including building codes and regulatory and enforcement systems, in order to mitigate, prepare for and respond to the increasing range and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and promote early warning systems and facilities for the rapid dissemination of information and warnings.
- (ii) Strengthen the capacity of local broadcasting to assist remote rural and outer island communities within countries and among neighbouring countries during disaster events.
- (iii) Establish a national disaster emergency fund with joint private and public sector support for areas where insurance is not available in the commercial market, taking into account the relevant experience to be gained from the operation of similar funds.

- (iv) Integrate natural and environmental disaster policies into national development planning processes and encourage the development and implementation of public and private sector pre- and post-disaster recovery plans, drawing on the capacity of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and bearing in mind the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.
- (v) Strengthen cultural and traditional systems that improve the resilience of local communities to disaster events.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, regional institutions to complement and support national efforts in disaster mitigation, preparedness and management.
- (ii) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, mechanisms for sharing experience, information and resources, including expertise, among small island developing States.
- (iii) Increase access to telecommunication links and satellite facilities for disaster monitoring, assessment and information exchange.
- (iv) Establish and/or strengthen existing regional mechanisms and communication systems for rapid response to disasters.
- (v) Facilitate, as appropriate, the setting up of necessary regional committees for the International Decade, which could serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas, information and strategies for natural disaster reduction in each region.
- (vi) Support the operation of a national disaster emergency fund, taking into account the relevant experience to be gained from the operation of similar funds, as well as the enactment of standardized building codes and relevant legislation.

#### C. International action

- (i) Assist small island developing States in establishing and/or strengthening national and regional institutional mechanisms and policies designed to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, improve disaster preparedness and integrate natural disaster considerations in development planning, including through providing access to resources for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
- (ii) Improve access to technology and relevant training to assist with hazard and risk assessment and early warning systems, and to assist with the protection of islands from environmental disasters consistent with national and regional strategies for disaster management.
- (iii) Provide and facilitate technical support and training for disaster preparedness (including early warning) and relief programmes through the offices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment

Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international organizations.

- (iv) Encourage the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which will be held in May 1994, to give special recognition to small island developing States so that their unique characteristics will be taken into account in developing natural disaster reduction management programmes.
- (v) Through the offices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, support and facilitate the collection, storage, exchange and dissemination of information useful for pre-disaster planning, as well as disaster preparedness (including early warning), response and recovery, and facilitate the exchange of cooperation between regions.

### III. MANAGEMENT OF WASTES

#### Basis for action

21. The shortage of land areas and resources available for safe disposal, population growth and the increase in imports of polluting and hazardous substances combine to make pollution prevention and the management of wastes a critical issue for small island developing States. Wastes in those States tend to be highly visible, but due to their limited capacity to monitor the waste stream the true extent of the problem remains poorly understood. For small island developing States, the disposal of wastes is a serious constraint to sustainable development: both land and sea-based sources of pollution require urgent attention.

22. All small island developing States share the problem of how to safely dispose of solid and liquid wastes, particularly the wastes generated by urbanization, which otherwise result in the contamination of groundwater and lagoon areas. Point source pollution from industrial wastes and sewage, inappropriately sited and poorly managed garbage dumps and the disposal of toxic chemicals are significant contributors to marine pollution and coastal degradation. Limited land area makes the option of landfill disposal unsustainable in the long term. Incineration, while reducing the volume of wastes, is prohibitive in terms of cost and still requires the disposal of ash containing potentially hazardous substances in high concentrations. Pressure on forests to provide fuelwood and to expand agricultural development together with heavy use of agricultural chemicals also aggravate downstream pollution and sedimentation problems.

23. There is also growing concern about the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste, including the use of small island developing States for the disposal of waste generated by other countries. The isolation and oceanic location of small island developing States and their dependence on a marine and limited terrestrial resource base make them highly vulnerable to contamination by toxic and hazardous wastes and chemicals, and radioactive materials. The passage of ships carrying toxic and hazardous wastes, chemicals and radioactive materials is of international concern and of priority concern to small island developing States. There is a need to develop and enhance the emergency response capacities necessary to protect marine and coastal environments from accidents and incidents relating to marine transport. Emergency response



capabilities and any damage compensation arrangements must not impose an unreasonable burden on small island developing States.

24. Given that long-term disposal options are limited and will constrain sustainable development, small island developing States will need to look for ways of minimizing and/or converting wastes, such as sewage, into a resource (e.g., fertilizer for agriculture). This will include action ranging from limiting imports of non-biodegradable and hazardous substances to changing community attitudes to the disposal and use of sewage. In the short term, existing wastes require effective disposal, but at the same time incentives to continue waste generation should be avoided.

A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Develop fiscal and policy incentives and other measures to encourage environmentally sustainable imports and local products with low waste or degradable waste content.
- (ii) Develop and implement appropriate regulatory measures, including emission discharge and pollution standards, for the reduction, prevention, control and monitoring of pollution from all sources; for the safe and efficient management of toxic, hazardous and solid wastes, including sewage, herbicides, pesticides and industrial and hospital effluent; and for the proper management of disposal sites.
- (iii) Ratify and implement relevant conventions, including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal 5/ and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention of 1972), 6/ as well as relevant regional conventions.
- (iv) Formulate and implement public awareness and education campaigns designed to gain local recognition of the need to control wastes at the source; of the value of reuse, recycling and appropriate packaging; and of the possibilities for converting wastes to resources in culturally appropriate ways.
- (v) Introduce clean technologies and treatment of waste at the source and appropriate technology for solid waste treatment.
- (vi) Develop information systems and baseline data for waste management and pollution control, monitoring the types and quantities of wastes, for both sea- and land-based sources of pollution.
- (vii) Establish port reception facilities for the collection of waste in accordance with annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78). 7/
- (viii) In conformity with the Basel Convention and relevant decisions taken by the parties to that Convention, formulate and enforce national laws and/or regulations that ban the importation from States that are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of hazardous wastes and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, including hazardous wastes and other wastes destined for recycling and recovery operations.

## B. Regional action

- (i) Develop regional pollution prevention programmes, including regional centres for pollution prevention that would conduct demonstration projects, workshops and multimedia presentations tailored to specific groups; the development of economic incentives to further pollution prevention and waste management; relevant legislation; a coordinated and focused monitoring programme; and, where appropriate, the development of waste management and prevention trust funds.
- (ii) Remove and dispose of existing hazardous wastes, such as polychlorinated biphenyls, with the technical assistance of developed countries.
- (iii) Establish clearing-houses and increase the collection and synthesis of data and information on the sources, levels, amounts, kinds, trends and effects of pollution and waste on marine and coastal systems, as well as on processes and technologies for addressing pollution control from land and sea-based sources.
- (iv) Establish regional mechanisms, including conventions where appropriate, to protect the oceans, seas and coastal areas from ship-generated wastes, oil spills and the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste, consistent with international law.
- (v) Examine ways to resolve disputes concerning waste disposal practices affecting small islands and encourage a collaborative examination of the issues of liability and redress in the context of the Basel Convention.
- (vi) Facilitate the formulation and implementation of public awareness and education campaigns designed to gain local recognition of the need to control wastes at the source; the value of reuse, recycling and appropriate packaging; and of the possibilities for converting wastes to resources in culturally appropriate ways.
- (vii) Establish, where appropriate, regional centres for the training and transfer to cleaner production technologies and the management of hazardous wastes generated at the national level.

## C. International action

- (i) Support the strengthening of national and regional capabilities to carry out pollution monitoring and research and to formulate and apply pollution control and abatement measures.
- (ii) Support the strengthening of institutions to provide assistance to Governments and industry in the adoption of clean production technologies as well as in the prevention of pollution and the handling, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.
- (iii) Accept the right of small island developing States to regulate, restrict and/or ban the importation of products containing non-biodegradable and/or hazardous substances and to prohibit the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes and

materials within their jurisdiction, consistent with international law.

- (iv) Ensure that the international conventions and arrangements and related negotiations on marine pollution, in particular any amendments to the London Convention of 1972 but also in relation to land-based sources of marine pollution, take into account the interests and capacities of small island developing States.
- (v) Support measures to assist small island developing States in improving their capacity for the negotiation, follow-up and implementation of international conventions or arrangements, as well as for related negotiations on marine pollution, in particular any amendments to the London Convention of 1972 but also in relation to land-based sources of marine pollution.
- (vi) Assist in the implementation of monitoring and pollution prevention programmes and the establishment of port reception facilities for the collection of wastes in accordance with annex 5 of MARPOL 73/78.
- (vii) Enhance international cooperation in the establishment of waste management facilities, the control of toxic chemicals and pollution prevention as components of international investment projects, whether funded by multilateral or private sources.
- (viii) Assist small island developing States in assessing the impact of land-based sources of marine pollution and to develop mechanisms to eliminate or minimize the pollution source.
- (ix) Improve the access to resources of national and regional efforts to formulate and implement public awareness and education campaigns that are designed to gain local recognition of the need to control wastes at the source; the value of reuse, recycling and appropriate packaging; and of the possibilities for converting wastes to resources in culturally appropriate ways.
- (x) Ensure that the Basel Convention group of experts developing guidelines for monitoring the effects of the management of hazardous wastes on human health and the environment takes into account the concerns of small island developing States.
- (xi) Provide improved access to financial and technical resources to assist small island developing States in establishing regional centres for the training and transfer of cleaner production technologies and the management of hazardous wastes, and in developing inventories to register the training and technical activities of international organizations related to waste management and cleaner production.

#### IV. COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

##### Basis for action

25. Sustainable development in small island developing States depends largely on coastal and marine resources, because their small land area means that those States are effectively coastal entities. Population and economic development - both subsistence and cash - are concentrated in the coastal zone. The

establishment of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone has vastly extended the fisheries and other marine resources available to small island developing States. Their heavy dependence on coastal and marine resources emphasizes the need for appropriate and effective management.

26. The development and management of programmes designed to achieve the ecologically and economically sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources are major challenges for small island developing States. The lack of an integrated approach to coastal and marine area management has limited the effectiveness of past and present management measures which is increasingly resulting in coastal habitats being degraded through pollution, natural resources being overexploited and growing conflicts between competing resource uses. Development patterns have also had an adverse impact on traditional management systems, an impact in many cases exacerbated by the effects of natural hazards and extreme events, such as hurricanes/cyclones/typhoons, storm surges and abnormally high tides.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for developing and implementing integrated coastal zone management plans and strategies for coastal watersheds and exclusive economic zones, including integrating them within national development plans.
- (ii) Design comprehensive monitoring programmes for coastal and marine resources, including wetlands, in order to determine shoreline and ecosystem stability, and also document and apply, as a basis for integrated coastal zone planning and decision-making, traditional knowledge and management practices that are ecologically sound and include the participation of local communities.
- (iii) Develop and/or strengthen national capabilities for the sustainable harvesting and processing of fishery resources and provide training and awareness programmes for the managers (Government and local communities) of coastal and marine resources.
- (iv) Ratify and/or adhere to regional and international conventions concerning the protection of coastal and marine resources and combat unsustainable fishing and related practices.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Develop and/or strengthen the capacity of regional organizations to undertake activities in coastal and marine areas, including research into commercial and non-commercial fisheries with a view to sustainable harvesting and utilization, as well as surveys on reef, estuary, wetland and lagoon resources. Also monitor and promote innovative ways to sustainably develop territorial waters and exclusive economic zones, including providing support for aquaculture, mariculture, coral reef and mangrove programmes.
- (ii) Develop a methodology for integrated coastal zone management appropriate to small island developing States, particularly very small, low elevation and coral islands.

- (iii) Develop and/or strengthen regional clearing-houses for coastal and marine environmental information to facilitate the collection, synthesis and sharing of relevant information, knowledge and experience among small island developing States in a structured and systematic way.
- (iv) Develop programmes to enhance negotiating and related skills for the management and exploitation of coastal and marine resources, including the negotiation of fisheries agreements.
- (v) Develop and/or strengthen regional capabilities for the effective surveillance and monitoring of activities in the exclusive economic zones of small island developing States.
- (vi) Harmonize policies and strategies for the coordination of the sustainable management and utilization of coastal and marine resources.

### C. International action

- (i) Develop mechanisms for the gathering and sharing of information and expertise, particularly interregionally among small island developing States, including geographic information systems (GIS) techniques and facilities for the assessment of coastal and marine resources, including the regional nodes of the UNEP Global Resource Information Database.
- (ii) Cooperate in facilitating mutually advantageous fishing agreements between small island developing States and foreign fishing groups; take account of the concerns and characteristics of those States within the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; and encourage and facilitate the full participation of small island developing States in the Conference and in the implementation of the Conference outcomes.
- (iii) Assist with the establishment and/or strengthening, where necessary, of new institutional and administrative arrangements for the development of integrated coastal zone management plans and their implementation.
- (iv) Support small island developing States in establishing national and regional capabilities for the effective surveillance and monitoring of activities within their exclusive economic zones, setting up regional and other joint-venture fishing enterprises, developing inventories of marine resources and regional approaches to the sustainable management of their exclusive economic zones, and strengthening regional marine research centres.
- (v) Use the relevant results of the World Coast Conference 1993, held at Noordwijk, the Netherlands, from 1 to 5 November 1993 as well as the ongoing work within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme to assist small island developing States with the development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management plans, to improve international coordination in that field and to develop strategies to prevent further marine and coastal degradation.

- (vi) Monitor the results of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, to be held in Montreal from 6 to 10 June 1994, which are expected to be useful for assisting small island developing States in that area.
- (vii) Include, in means of building capacity for integrated coastal zone management planning and implementation, strengthening regional and international networks, including South-South relationships; increasing public awareness and participation; enhancing relevant education and increasing training activities; ensuring the involvement and participation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups; supporting the development of concepts, methodologies and tools; and supporting and strengthening international research and improvements in monitoring, the results of which should be integrated into policy development, planning and decision-making.

## V. FRESHWATER RESOURCES

### Basis for action

27. Freshwater resources are vital for meeting basic needs and the inadequate protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources can set important limits to sustainable development. Many health hazards in developing countries are related to poor water quality and limited water quantity. Because of their small size and particular geological, topographical and climatic conditions, many small island developing States face severe constraints in terms of both the quality and quantity of freshwater. This is particularly the case for low-lying coral-based islands, where groundwater supplies are limited and are protected only by a thin permeable soil. Even where rainfall is abundant, access to clean water has been restricted by the lack of adequate storage facilities and effective delivery systems.

28. Inadequate action to safeguard watershed areas and groundwater resources poses a further long-term threat, while in urban areas rapid population growth, changes in economic strategies and a growing per capita use of freshwater are significant challenges. In that context, sound long-term management strategies for water catchment and storage areas, including the treatment and distribution of limited water supplies, are of particular economic and environmental importance. Such strategies may involve substantial capital investment and ongoing maintenance programmes, which may affect the real cost of water. A common threat to the freshwater resources of small island developing States is the contamination of supply by human and livestock waste, industry-related pollution and, in some cases, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals. All strategies need to take account of the possible constraints to water supply from low groundwater recharge in times of drought, salt-water intrusion, and inundation as a result of climate change and sealevel rise. Such intrusions are made even more likely as a result of over-abstraction, particularly during times of extended drought. In that regard, due consideration must be paid to the primacy of the need to supply water for sanitation purposes.

29. The Political Statement and Action Programme, adopted at the International Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation, held in the Netherlands in 1994 (E/CN.17/1994/12, annex), could serve as one of the important bases for small island developing States in implementing relevant portions of chapter 18, programme area D, of Agenda 21.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Develop, maintain and protect watershed areas, irrigation systems, distribution networks and appropriate catchment systems and promote effective programmes for water conservation and prevention of water contamination through, inter alia, the development of integrated national water plans, the use of appropriate incentives and regulatory measures, community involvement in management and conservation, forest management and reforestation and investment strategies.
- (ii) Adopt appropriate standards for the management of freshwater resources, and develop and strengthen low-cost monitoring and assessment capabilities, linked to water resource databases, for relevant decision-making tools, including forecasting models for water management, planning and utilization.
- (iii) Strengthen procedures to monitor and respond to the impacts on water resources of natural and environmental hazards, in particular the impacts of climate change and climate variability, including drought and sealevel rise.
- (iv) Encourage the development and acquisition of appropriate technology and training for cost-effective sewage disposal, desalination and rainwater collection to provide sufficiently high quality potable freshwater, including opportunities for technology interchange among small island developing States.
- (v) Strengthen national capacities to make decisions among competing demands for the allocation of limited water resources.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Develop and strengthen initiatives for regional cooperation in training and research to assist Governments in the development and implementation of integrated water resource plans, including the conservation and rehabilitation of watersheds, the protection of groundwater, setting standards for the management of those resources, fostering public awareness and water quality monitoring.
- (ii) Provide technical assistance for the assessment and/or development and transfer of appropriate technology for water collection, distribution and protection, in particular sewage disposal technology.

#### C. International action

- (i) Improve access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technologies for the catchment, production, conservation and delivery of freshwater, including rainwater catchment, water treatment systems and desalination, and also foster the exchange of information on water treatment methods.
- (ii) Enhance the capacity of small island developing States to develop and implement integrated water resource plans, including water resource allocation and management, the conservation and rehabilitation of

watersheds, the protection of groundwater, fostering public awareness and water quality monitoring.

- (iii) Assist training and public awareness campaigns in building up an endogenous capacity relating to water management and conservation, and appropriate rainwater catchment systems.
- (iv) Support the establishment of methodologies aimed at assessing the adverse impact of climate change on freshwater resources and develop appropriate response and mitigation measures.

## VI. LAND RESOURCES

### Basis for action

30. The small size of most small island developing States, coupled with land tenure systems, soil types, relief and climatic variation, limit the area available for urban settlement, agriculture, mining, commercial forestry, tourism and other infrastructure, and create intense competition between land use options. Most aspects of environmental management in small island developing States are directly dependent on, or influenced by, the planning and utilization of land resources, which in turn are intimately linked to coastal zone management and protection in those States.

31. For human requirements to be met in a sustainable manner, competing demands for the use of land resources must be resolved and more effective and efficient ways of using those natural resources must be developed and adopted. As populations grow in small island developing States, there is a need for resolution of competing demands, particularly where land is limited and where commercial development of comparatively large tracts of land can result in shifts in small scale and subsistence agriculture to marginal lands.

32. The major long-term land management issue in small island developing States is the degradation of the limited land area due to a variety of factors, including overuse because of high population pressure on a limited resource base; deforestation due to unsustainable commercial logging or permanent conversion to agricultural or grazing pursuits; and other episodic events, such as fire. Natural events, such as catastrophic cyclones, are also major contributors. Land degradation of that kind results in accelerated erosion and a resultant decline in fertility and productivity, a deterioration in water quality and the siltation of rivers, lagoons and reefs. Deforestation is also linked to a decline in the continuity and quality of village water supply, the depletion of genetic, wood and non-wood plant resources, and the fading away of traditional forest, lagoon and reef-based subsistence life systems.

33. The search for an improved quality of life, with its increased demands for cash income, has led to greater production of export cash crops, increasing areas of cultivation and resulting in more mechanized production systems. In the past, unsustainable agricultural practices in those areas have contributed to deforestation, the loss of multiple purpose trees from the rural landscape and the agrochemical pollution of soils, freshwater and coastal resources. There is, however, much that can be learned from traditional systems of food production and the use of plants to promote sustainable agriculture and land management.



34. The conclusions and recommendations of the Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, held in Barbados from 7 to 10 April 1992, 8/ contain the consensus position of small islands in the agricultural sector. The Bridgetown Declaration 9/ emanating from that ministerial Conference affirmed the determination and commitment of those countries to pursue sustainable development policies that ensure the long-term viability of their agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Develop and improve national databases and the dissemination of information to relevant groups, especially local communities, youth and women, for land-use planning and management, including estimates of the carrying capacity, economic and environmental value of land resources, along with appropriate decision-making tools, such as land/geographic information systems.
- (ii) Prepare and/or review land-use plans in conjunction with agricultural, forestry, mining, tourism, traditional land-use practices and other land-use policies, with a view to formulating comprehensive land-use plans and zoning so as to protect land resources, ensure sustainable and productive land-use and guard against land degradation, pollution and exceeding island carrying capacity.
- (iii) Encourage appropriate forms of land tenure, improved land administration and a greater appreciation of the integrated nature of land development in order to facilitate sustainable land-use.
- (iv) Formulate and enforce laws, regulations, and economic pricing and incentives in order to encourage the sustainable and integrated use, management and conservation of the land and its natural resources.
- (v) Support appropriate afforestation and reforestation programmes, with appropriate emphasis on natural regeneration and the participation of land owners, in order to ensure watershed and coastal protection and reduce land degradation.
- (vi) Improve the availability, affordability and environmental quality of shelter in human settlements, in accordance with chapter 7 of Agenda 21.
- (vii) Increase attention to national physical planning in both urban and rural environments, focusing on training to strengthen physical planning offices, including the use of environmental impact assessments and other decision-making tools.

B. Regional action

- (i) Provide appropriate training and other capacity-building opportunities for small island developing States, including systems for providing a continuous surveillance of the rate and extent of land-use changes and monitoring adverse environmental effects, in order to facilitate the implementation of national actions.

- (ii) Collect, synthesize and share among small island developing States, in a structured and systematic way, relevant information, knowledge and experience on sustainable land-use practices and policies, including issues pertaining to environmental, agricultural, forestry, mining and other land-based sectors, market intelligence information, and the assessment of potential interested overseas investors.

### C. International action

- (i) Support the improved availability of shelter and the improved economic and environmental quality of human settlements for small island developing States in accordance with chapter 7 of Agenda 21.
- (ii) Facilitate the development and improvement of national databases and the dissemination of information to relevant groups, especially local communities, youth and women, for land-use planning and management, including estimates of the carrying capacity, economic and environmental value of land resources, along with appropriate decision-making tools such as land/geographic information systems.
- (iii) Facilitate more effective international and interregional cooperation, coordination, collaboration and technical exchanges in the fields of agriculture, forestry and other land-use, through international and interregional networks and training programmes.

## VII. ENERGY RESOURCES

### Basis for action

35. Small island developing States are currently heavily dependent on imported petroleum products, largely for transport and electricity generation, energy often accounting for more than 12 per cent of imports. They are also heavily dependent on indigenous biomass fuels for cooking and crop drying.

36. Small island developing States will continue to be heavily dependent on petroleum fuels and biomass both in the short and medium term. However, the current uses of those fuels tend to be highly inefficient. Increased efficiency through appropriate technology and national energy policies and management measures will reap both financial and environmental benefits for small island developing States.

37. The renewable energy resources endowments of small island developing States vary greatly. All have substantial solar resources, which have still not been developed to their full potential. Wind potential is highly variable with location, both within and between countries. Hydroelectric power is a possibility only for some islands. Biomass endowment is common but unequal. Studies of the potential for geothermal, ocean thermal energy conversion and wave energy are continuing.

38. Several constraints to the large-scale commercial use of renewable energy resources remain, including technology development, investment costs, available indigenous skills and management capabilities. Small-scale application for rural electrification has been sporadic. The use of renewable energy resources as substantial commercial fuels by small island developing States is dependent on the development and commercial production of appropriate technologies.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Implement appropriate public education and awareness programmes, including consumer incentives to promote energy conservation.
- (ii) Promote the efficient use of energy and the development of environmentally sound sources of energy and energy-efficient technologies, paying special attention to the possibilities of using, where appropriate, economic instruments and incentive structures and the increasing economic possibilities of renewable sources of energy.
- (iii) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, research capabilities in the development and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, wave and biomass energy, and ocean thermal energy conversion.
- (iv) Strengthen research capabilities and develop technologies to encourage the efficient utilization of non-renewable sources of energy.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Establish or strengthen research and policy capabilities in the development of new and renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, wave and biomass energy.
- (ii) Assist, where appropriate, in the formulation of energy policies, standards and guidelines for the energy sector that are applicable to small island developing States, and enhance national capacity to effectively plan, manage and monitor their energy sectors.
- (iii) Gather and disseminate information, and promote regional cooperation and technical exchanges among small island developing States on energy-sector issues, including new and renewable sources of energy.

#### C. International action

- (i) Support the research, development and utilization of renewable sources of energy and related technologies and improve the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources.
- (ii) Formulate and ratify international agreements on energy-sector issues in relation to sustainable development in such areas as carbon emissions and the transportation of petroleum (for example, the use of double-hulled tankers).
- (iii) Develop effective mechanisms for the transfer of energy technology and establish databases to disseminate information on experience in the use of new and renewable sources of energy as well as on the efficient use of non-renewable energy sources.
- (iv) Encourage international institutions and agencies, including public international financial institutions, to incorporate environmental efficiency and conservation principles into energy-sector-related

projects, training and technical assistance, and, where appropriate, to provide concessionary financing facilities for energy-sector reforms.

- (v) Develop effective and efficient ways of utilizing, disposing of, recycling and reducing the by-products and waste of energy production.

## VIII. TOURISM RESOURCES

### Basis for action

39. Tourism has contributed much to the development of small island developing States and, as one of only a few development options for those small States, will continue to be very important for their future growth. It could also stimulate the development of other sectors. However, if not properly planned and managed, tourism could significantly degrade the environment on which it is so dependent. The fragility and interdependence of coastal zones and the unspoilt areas on which eco-tourism depends calls for careful management. One of the special tourist attractions of small island developing States is the distinctiveness of their cultures. The diversity and fragility of their environments are reflected in the diversity and fragility of their cultures. The protection of the former is an important condition for the protection of the latter.

40. Capital investment in tourism, particularly for the necessary infrastructure, is costly. There is usually great competition for land resources among tourism, agriculture and other land uses. Large increases in tourism and the overdevelopment of tourism in particular areas or in whole islands could be environmentally and culturally disruptive and detrimental to other valuable sectors, such as agriculture. It is imperative, therefore, that the development of tourism be carefully planned, particularly in relation to compatible land uses, water management, coastal zone management and the development of parks and protected areas. Tourism, like all forms of development in the coastal zone, needs to be carefully integrated within the existing cultural and environmental constraints and opportunities present within small island developing States. Eco-tourism, linking areas of high ecological value to low-impact tourism, may present important and environmentally sustainable opportunities for tourism development in small island developing States.

### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Ensure that tourism development and environmental management are mutually supportive.
- (ii) Adopt integrated planning and policies to ensure sustainable tourism development, with particular attention to land-use planning and coastal zone management, requiring environmental impact assessments for all tourism projects; the continuous monitoring of the environmental impact of all tourism activities; and the development of guidelines and standards for design and construction taking into account energy and water consumption, the generation and disposal of wastes and land degradation, the proper management and protection of eco-tourism attractions, and the carrying capacity of areas for tourism.

- (iii) Identify and develop facilities to meet specific niche markets, particularly in eco-tourism, nature and cultural tourism, and involve local populations in the identification and management of natural protected areas set aside for eco-tourism.
- (iv) Adopt measures to protect the cultural integrity of small island developing States.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Ensure that tourism and the environment are mutually supportive in cooperation schemes at the regional level including, where appropriate, through harmonizing standards and regulations.
- (ii) Encourage the assessment and development of potential complementarities among small island developing States, including the development of packaged options covering several islands and joint marketing and training programmes.
- (iii) Establish or strengthen regional mechanisms for the exchange of information on the development of a safe and sustainable tourism sector, using, as appropriate, the capacities of regional tourism organizations.

#### C. International action

- (i) Promote the recognition by the international community of both the value of tourism in small island developing States and the fragility of the resources on which it depends, and of the resulting need for international support to encourage its sustainable development.
- (ii) Facilitate efforts, at the national and regional levels, to assess the overall impact of the economic, social and ecological aspects of tourism, plan sustainable tourism and to develop eco- and cultural tourism.

### IX. BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES

#### Basis for action

41. Small island developing States are renowned for their species diversity and endemism. However, due to the small size, isolation and fragility of island ecosystems, their biological diversity is among the most threatened in the world. Deforestation, coral reef deterioration, habitat degradation and loss, and the introduction of certain non-indigenous species are the most significant causes of the loss of biodiversity in small island developing States.

42. In the past, there has been a strong emphasis on the collection of more information. In small island developing States where limited and biologically precious resources are being threatened, while the lack of sufficient information is often cited as a rationale for inaction, there is often enough information to identify areas requiring in situ conservation. Although more information will be required in order to develop appropriate management plans,

information collection should no longer be a prior condition for in situ conservation projects.

43. The nature of traditional, often communal land and marine resource ownership in many island countries requires community support for the conservation effort. Without that local support and commitment and the opportunity to integrate sustainable income generation into the conservation effort, even the most highly studied and well planned conservation area will not be sustainable.

44. Some of the most precious biological resources for islanders, environmentally, economically and culturally, are marine and coastal rather than terrestrial. This requires a conservation focus that takes into account customary land and reef tenure systems and practices, which may differ from that usually found in the larger developed countries. Other considerations include the adequacy of basic institutional support for conservation efforts (staff, vehicles etc.) and access to financial resources to help start innovative projects.

45. A number of international and regional conventions exist concerning the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological resources, which are expected to provide a sound legal framework of potential benefit to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Formulate and implement integrated strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, in particular endemic species, including protection from the introduction of certain non-indigenous species and the identification of sites of high biological significance for the conservation of biological diversity and/or for eco-tourism and other sustainable development opportunities, such as sustainable agriculture, training and research.
- (ii) Ratify and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, 10/ the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 11/ and other relevant international and regional conventions.
- (iii) Promote community support for the conservation of biological diversity and the designation of protected areas by concentrating on educational strategies that increase awareness of the significance of biodiversity conservation, in particular the fundamental importance to resource-owning communities of a diverse biological resource base.
- (iv) Generate and maintain buffer stocks or gene banks of biogenetic resources for reintroduction into their natural habitat, especially in the case of post-disaster restoration and rehabilitation.
- (v) Develop or continue studies and research on biological resources, their management and their intrinsic socio-economic and cultural value, including biotechnology.
- (vi) Conduct detailed inventories of existing flora, fauna and ecosystems to provide basic data needed for the preservation of biodiversity.

- (vii) Ensure that the ownership of intellectual property rights is adequately and effectively protected. Ensure, subject to national legislation and policies, that the technology, knowledge, and customary and traditional practices of local and indigenous people, including resource owners and custodians, are adequately and effectively protected, and that they thereby benefit directly, on an equitable basis and on mutually agreed terms, from any utilization of such technologies, knowledge and practices, or from any technological development directly derived therefrom.
- (viii) Support the involvement of non-governmental organizations, women, indigenous people and other major groups, as well as fishing communities and farmers, in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and biotechnology.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Encourage countries to give priority to known, existing sites of biological significance - while recognizing that there are many important sites whose biological significance remains unknown - and to build up community support for the protection of those areas including their protection from the introduction of non-indigenous species.
- (ii) Promote regional studies of the socio-economic and cultural value of biological resources, including genetic engineering, intellectual property rights and access to biotechnology, with the participation of existing or strengthened scientific institutions, relevant international agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- (iii) Promote the establishment of regional gene-bank centres for research, seeking the development and introduction of more resistant and productive varieties of species, and provide the appropriate legal and technical procedures for the use of those biological resources.
- (iv) Coordinate information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national efforts to establish and manage conservation areas and for species conservation, including the identification and use of traditional knowledge and techniques for resource management that assist the conservation of biological resources and diversity.
- (v) Promote and/or strengthen already existing regional scientific institutions that can operate as reference centres for problems related to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.
- (vi) Strengthen the capacity of regional organizations to provide technical support and coordination in the development of inventories of flora, fauna and ecosystems and, where feasible, to establish regional databases and gene banks.
- (vii) Support the development of adequate and effective legal mechanisms for the protection of intellectual property rights.

### C. International action

- (i) Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for the conservation of biological diversity, including funds for basic institutional and logistic support for the conservation and management of biological diversity, with priority to be accorded to terrestrial as well as coastal and marine biodiversity, such as coral reef ecosystems.
- (ii) Improve access to environmentally sound biotechnology, including know-how and delivery mechanisms.
- (iii) Ensure that the activities of relevant international organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations as well as relevant non-governmental organizations are closely coordinated with and supportive of identified regional small island developing States centres or ongoing programmes in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and biotechnology.
- (iv) Make greater use of import restrictions under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on products from endangered species endemic to small island developing States.
- (v) Support national and regional actions for developing inventories of flora, fauna and ecosystems, including training and technical assistance.
- (vi) Support strategies to protect small island developing States from the introduction of non-indigenous species.
- (vii) Promote the full involvement of non-governmental organizations, women, indigenous people and other major groups, as well as fishing communities and farmers, in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and biotechnology.

### X. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

#### Basis for action

46. To address the environmental resource management priorities essential to the sustainable development of small island developing States, national institutional and administrative arrangements are increasingly embracing the interrelated nature of activities in their limited land area. The integration of environmental considerations into the national decision-making processes is considered to be the single most important step to be taken by small island developing States to ensure that those problems are addressed and that the principles of sustainability guide all future development.

47. Economic imperatives must be evaluated from the perspective of socio-environmental considerations if the natural resource base is to be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations and social and cultural values safeguarded. Economic development must become sustainable development by incorporating environmental and resource management. This requires the adoption of interdisciplinary approaches to both planning and



decision-making, as well as, to the extent possible, the encouragement of public participation in the process.

48. Formal integration of economic and environmental considerations will necessitate a series of institutional adjustments within government administrations, accompanied by across-the-board strengthening of environmental administrative capacity. This must happen at all levels of government, including at the local level. Many forms of institutional adjustment are conceivable and should be tailored to specific country needs. It is recognized that that process would benefit from public participation.

49. Many countries have prepared environmental strategies and plans that integrate environment and development; they are seen as the first step in a process leading to the wide application of sustainable development principles. For those plans to promote sustainable development, however, they must be utilized for national decision-making, including at all appropriate levels of government, in order that environment and development policy can be carefully integrated.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Strengthen institutional arrangements and administrative capacity, including cross-sectoral/inter-ministerial committees and task forces, in order to integrate environment and economic policy into national planning and across sectors and ensure the capacity to implement Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Global Conference.
- (ii) Develop implementation strategies and schedules, including financing, for both regional and national activities.
- (iii) Establish or strengthen environmental agencies with adequate financial and staff resources.
- (iv) Increase the awareness and involvement of non-governmental organizations, local communities and other major groups in public education, national planning and the implementation of sustainable development programmes.
- (v) Improve public education in order to familiarize local, provincial/State and national bodies with environmental laws already in existence, facilitate discussion of the value of environmental legislation and standards to local communities and open wider discussion on more culturally appropriate penalties for the contravention of laws and regulations.
- (vi) Develop appropriate national, provincial/State and local environmental regulations that reflect the needs and incorporate the principles of sustainability, create appropriate environmental standards and procedures, and ensure their integration into national planning instruments and development projects at an early stage in the design process, including specific legislation for appropriate environmental impact assessment for both public and private sector development.
- (vii) Give sustainable development task forces or their equivalent the official authority and validity to permit their continued meeting as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies.

- (viii) Provide adequate resources for the enforcement of environmental regulations.
- (ix) Enact the domestic legislation required for the implementation of the wide range of international environmental conventions and agreements directly relevant to small island developing States.
- (x) Establish national information nodes on the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to encourage, at the international level, the development of a small islands' sustainable development information network to facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Assist, where appropriate, with the preparation and implementation of national environmental strategies and plans.
- (ii) Provide appropriate research, training and information dissemination in order to facilitate the mainstreaming of environment in development planning and decision-making and coordination among sectors.

#### C. International action

- (i) Improve access to financial and technical assistance in order to strengthen national institutions and administrative and operational capacity.
- (ii) Support the development of a small islands' sustainable development information network to facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States.
- (iii) Assist in providing training and capacity-building services to facilitate the ratification and implementation of appropriate international instruments.
- (iv) Promote closer cooperation to improve national and international measures to combat illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.

### XI. REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

#### Basis for action

50. The limited human resources and small size of small island developing States makes it especially important to pool those resources through regional cooperation and institutions. It is essential that effective support for regional projects be coordinated through regional bodies. This is desirable to avoid duplication and achieve complementarity of assistance.

51. Regional organizations, both United Nations and non-United Nations, can play a key role in facilitating efficient and effective assistance to small island developing States. Regional organizations are also useful vehicles, in many instances, for the implementation of regional programmes. The programming,

administrative and implementation capacities of those bodies can further be improved with the support of member nations and other donors.

52. Currently, multilateral and bilateral donors undertake their own regional programming exercises through regular dialogue with small island developing States and relevant bodies. Non-governmental organizations also deliver services at the national and regional level in support of regional programmes.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Support regional organizations through membership and budgetary contributions.
- (ii) Encourage improved coordination and collaboration among regional bodies and between the international community and regional programmes.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Improve coordination among regional bodies for the sustainable development of small island developing States as outlined in Agenda 21.
- (ii) Formulate regional programmes and strategies jointly between regional bodies and national authorities consistent with Agenda 21.
- (iii) Develop a small island developing States technical assistance programme to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation on sustainable development in small island developing States.
- (iv) Establish, where appropriate, and support regional sustainable development centres to facilitate the sustainable development of small island developing States in the areas of research, training, the development of endogenous technology, the transfer of technology and the provision of legal and technical advice, taking into account the work of existing relevant institutions, including universities.
- (v) Draft model environmental provisions as a guide for countries, leaving to each small island developing State the incorporation of country-specific provisions to reflect the variety and diversity of national and customary laws and procedures, and encourage, where appropriate, the harmonization of environmental legislation and policies within and among small island developing States with a view to ensuring a high degree of environmental protection.
- (vi) Prepare environmental law training manuals for both lawyers and others working in the environmental field.
- (vii) Conduct regional and in-country workshops on environmental law subjects, including environmental conventions and treaties, environmental impact assessment, heritage, pollution, civil enforcement, prosecution and environmental mediation.
- (viii) Assess and inform small island developing States about the content, notification processes, financial and legal implications of relevant

international environmental instruments and conventions in order to encourage small island developing States to accede to and implement them.

### C. International action

- (i) Support environmental law offices within regional and subregional organizations to implement regional approaches, including the development of relevant expertise.
- (ii) Improve access to financial and technical resources for the development and/or strengthening of regional bodies in order to respond to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States.
- (iii) Improve coordination with relevant regional/subregional bodies to implement Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Global Conference.
- (iv) Strengthen regional bodies in order to improve their capacity to respond to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States.

## XII. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

### Basis for action

53. Transport and communications are the lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world, with each other and within their own countries, and are an important means of achieving sustainable development. Distance and isolation have resulted in relatively high transport costs, including high transport insurance costs, for many small island developing States. The quality and frequency of international shipping and air services are largely beyond the control of island States. Domestic markets are too small to provide economies of scale and the remoteness of many rural and outer-island communities constrains options and increases costs. While national airlines are necessary to serve the local market, especially in archipelagic States, they tend to fragment the regional market. The constraining influence of those factors on the sustainable development of island countries cannot be underestimated.

54. The environmental uses associated with transport and communications development, including quarantine, also need to be properly addressed. Such issues include land transport, which has been found to be one of the greatest degraders of the urban environment, at both national and regional levels and which appears to have lagged behind improvements and major changes in transport services.

55. Devising innovative approaches to resolving transport and communications problems, such as the development of low-cost high-tech methods for the moving of cargo, and improving community access to telephone, radio and related services are major challenges. Improving the management and maintenance of existing transport and communications infrastructure is a further challenge. In building new infrastructure, particular consideration needs to be given to maintenance and recurrent cost issues.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Continue efforts to strengthen transport services and facilities at both the national and local levels, paying particular attention to environmental protection, safety, and innovative energy-efficient and low-cost transport solutions.
- (ii) Upgrade domestic communication facilities, including radio and telephone coverage, to remote rural and outer island communities, and continue efforts to improve international telecommunications links.
- (iii) Address quarantine problems and requirements stemming from changing transport situations and longer-term climatic changes.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Foster increased cooperation in civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications, including exploring possibilities for the consolidation of national airline services, recognizing the important contribution that could be made through the regional planning of transport and telecommunications facilities and networks.
- (ii) Develop effective quarantine services, including through upgrading existing plant protection and related programmes.
- (iii) Encourage the application of appropriate communications technologies to promote sustainable development in areas such as education, health, eco-tourism and other areas critical to sustainable development, including the promotion of greater public awareness.

#### C. International action

- (i) Develop innovative energy-efficient transport solutions to move people and cargo to and from island ports without the need to establish high-cost infrastructure.
- (ii) Cooperate with national and regional bodies in designing and enforcing effective quarantine systems.
- (iii) Improve access to financial and technical resources in support of regional organizations that are coordinating and advising small island developing States in the fields of transport and communications.
- (iv) Promote research and development in telecommunications and transportation that is relevant to the sustainable development of small island developing States.
- (v) Promote improved international telecommunications at the lowest possible cost for small island developing States, while recognizing the need to create an environment conducive to investment in telecommunications infrastructure and service to benefit local business and people.

### XIII. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Basis for action

56. Science and technology are crucial for the achievement of sustainable development. There would be considerable benefit if all countries incorporated environmentally friendly technologies to a greater extent. However, in small island developing States, science and technological capacity remains underdeveloped both in terms of research and development institutions and of the availability of scientists to serve such institutions on a sustained basis. At the same time, some island peoples survive on traditional knowledge and its application, which is being threatened in small island developing States increasingly driven to adopt modern technologies and scientific understanding. A better integration of contemporary and traditional knowledge could also prove beneficial.

57. Many new environmentally sound technologies relevant to economic activities in small island developing States are becoming available, information concerning which and the ability to assess which are crucial for technological change to achieve sustainable development. Science and technological capacity require trained people to serve in production enterprises, to engage in training and to help in the assessment and adaptation of imported technologies.

58. Small island developing States will benefit from increased access to imported technologies to facilitate their sustainable development. However, an improved capacity to tap local knowledge and to develop environmentally sound endogenous technologies is also an important step towards sustainable development in a number of areas, including agriculture, agricultural processing, construction, communications and the marine sciences.

59. Trained people are needed in a wider range of fields in order to ensure adequate training and capacity for environmental impact and technology assessment. Limited national capacities mean that in a number of those areas, emphasis will have to be given to regional and subregional approaches and joint ventures with the international community. Encouragement of private sector involvement could also be very important because of limited governmental capacity to undertake both training and research and development.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Ensure that science and technology policy is closely linked to national environmental strategies and sustainable development plans and is responsive to local and sectoral sustainable development needs, emphasizing self-sufficiency and the minimization of import dependency.
- (ii) Give greater emphasis to research and development, as well as to training for science and technology and economic development generally, and for environmental and technology assessment in particular; refine analytical tools for natural resource accounting; and encourage the development and use of information and communications technology to overcome size and isolation problems.

- (iii) Promote research and development in areas where endogenous technologies and traditional practices have great relevance, including agriculture, agricultural processing, waste-recycling, ethnobiology and biotechnology, construction and renewable energy, ensuring that mechanisms are in place for the appropriate protection of intellectual property rights in accordance with relevant international conventions.
- (iv) Encourage the use of endogenous, environmentally friendly technologies by establishing regulations, standards and economic incentives.
- (v) Develop or ensure access to databases on environmentally sound technologies of local relevance and collect consistent time-series data for monitoring the performance of sustainable development.
- (vi) Promote and strengthen the role of women in science and technology disciplines.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Develop or strengthen efforts, through relevant regional organizations and institutions, to assist small island developing States in assessing technology, developing databases on environmentally sound technologies, conducting relevant research and development and training, and developing appropriate information systems to share experience within and among small island developing States.
- (ii) Encourage appropriate regional standards and the standardization of analytical methods as well as scientific inter-calibration exercises in order to facilitate the exchange of data.
- (iii) Develop and strengthen regional ocean sciences networks, with particular reference to data collection and the dissemination of information relevant to small island developing States.

#### C. International action

- (i) Facilitate the access to and development of environmentally sound technologies that are relevant to small island developing States, including coastal zone management and marine and ocean sciences, using, inter alia, joint ventures, joint research and development programmes and financial mechanisms.
- (ii) Strengthen the coordination and networking of the various national centres, regional organizations and institutions, and international organizations working in areas of science and technology in order to facilitate information flows, database creation and access, and greater collaboration and technical cooperation in programmes.
- (iii) Encourage development within the international community, including the United Nations system, of appropriate programmes in support of regional and national efforts to build the science and technology capacities of small island developing States, including those that increase the output and range of their limited human resources, taking into account relevant activities of the Commission on Sustainable

Development and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

- (iv) Take account of the needs of small island developing States in the action plan for training in integrated coastal zone management being developed cooperatively by UNDP and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat.
- (v) Facilitate the full involvement of scientists and other experts from small island developing States in marine scientific research.
- (vi) Promote the free flow of, and access to, data and information resulting from marine scientific research, particularly as it relates to monitoring in small island developing States.
- (vii) Accelerate the development of the coastal module of the Global Ocean Observing System, due to its particular importance to small island developing States.

#### XIV. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

##### Basis for action

60. Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and thus significant attention must be given to projects that will enhance the quality of human life in small island developing States. Projects should be undertaken with a view to not only the contribution that individuals, groups, communities and nations can make towards sustainable development but more importantly how those projects will ultimately affect the well-being of those living in small island developing States.

61. The smallness and vulnerability of small island developing States necessitates that special attention be paid to population issues, education and training, and health for effective human resource development. The need for attention to human resource development issues is demonstrated by poor health and social services; poor nutrition and housing; low levels of female participation in development; the current insufficiency of education, information and means, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size; and inadequate family planning services. In addition, the uncounted costs of drug abuse include rising health costs, increased unemployment and the diversion of scarce human resources. High population densities and growth, as well as depopulation in some areas, are constraints to achieving sustainable development in many small island developing States. Increasing attention must be given to the concept of island carrying capacity and environmental health, especially for fragile and highly populated environments in urban areas, coastal zones and hillsides.

62. It is a matter of high priority to strengthen national educational and training mechanisms in order to facilitate the flow of information on sustainable development issues, enhance public awareness of the environment and encourage participation in the implementation of effective solutions. A key requirement is to promote access to and improve the quality of basic education.

63. Environmental education and science training, particularly on issues specific to small island developing States, are essential to developing environmental awareness. Training in environmental management and sustainable



development are needed at all levels of the education system. For professional training, multidisciplinary approaches are needed. There is a demand for knowledge on the environment to meet both educational and professional needs. Areas in which more training is greatly needed are science and technology generally; technology assessment; environmental impact assessment; environmental management and sustainable development; environmental chemistry; environmental engineering; physical planning and the development of geographic information systems; and information and communications technology.

64. Chapter 6 of Agenda 21 recognizes the close dependency of human health on a healthy environment and provides a list of priority actions. Although some small island developing States have implemented relevant activities, the overall improvement in the health of their populations continues to slow down. Furthermore, in many cases the health conditions of vulnerable groups, such as poor women and children, have actually deteriorated.

#### A. National action, policies and measures

- (i) Infuse sustainable development ideas into education curricula at all levels and promote participation by all groups, emphasizing the link between environment and social and economic issues, and continue to improve access to scientific, mathematics and technical training.
- (ii) Incorporate population issues into the mainstream of decision-making and planning mechanisms of government, including developing comprehensive population policies consistent with sustainable development objectives while respecting and promoting the dignity and the fundamental rights of the human person and of the family.
- (iii) Improve urban/rural settlements, in consultation with local communities, by giving priority to the improvement of basic services, such as access to potable water, environmentally sound sewage treatment and disposal, shelter, education, family planning and health care, as well as to the elimination of poverty; ensuring that development projects are people-centred and have explicit environment and health objectives; ensuring adequate resources for public health and preventive medicine activities; and considering urban development options, including decentralization.
- (iv) Direct efforts to improve urban/rural settlements through the promotion of projects aimed at the elimination of poverty that give priority to the improvement of basic services such as shelter and comprehensive public health, including potable water, sewage disposal, maternal and child health care, the responsible planning of family size and other specific measures aimed at health promotion and disease prevention.
- (v) Encourage the use of distance training to meet the expanding educational demand and the large demand for knowledge and training in the area of the environment.
- (vi) Promote and strengthen the role of major groups, including non-governmental organizations and women, in the creation and implementation of sustainable development initiatives.

- (vii) Seek to improve the quality of education, training and human resource development by upgrading basic education and technical/vocational skills training and by making improvements, where necessary, to national management and planning capacities and labour market linkages.
- (viii) Encourage the use of traditional knowledge and skills in environment, resource management and health, and the use of community groups to assist in promoting environmental awareness.

#### B. Regional action

- (i) Support national efforts to develop appropriate curricula for sustainable development at all levels, including the introduction, development and/or access to interdisciplinary training in environmental sciences at a tertiary level, and improve the coordination of training activities on sustainable development and environmental issues that are being conducted throughout small island developing States by different organizations, including non-governmental organizations.
- (ii) Assess the impact of urbanization on the physical and human environments and provide health evaluation and impact assessment capability for small island developing States.
- (iii) Enhance regional cooperation in educational and human resource development and improve the responsiveness of education centres to regional requirements.

#### C. International action

- (i) Support efforts to develop curricula for sustainable development, in particular tertiary level courses on environmental management and sustainable development, encouraging multidisciplinary approaches.
- (ii) Provide appropriate resources to meet the particular population concerns of small island developing States, including the implementation of any relevant outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development.
- (iii) Improve the coordination and targeting of the education and human resource development programmes provided by the development partners of small island developing States.
- (iv) Support national and regional efforts to improve education and human resource development in small island developing States.
- (v) Encourage and support technical cooperation among small island developing States and other developing countries as a means of enhancing sustainable development.
- (vi) Support efforts to promote and strengthen the role of small island developing States in the creation and implementation of sustainable development initiatives.

- (vii) Support basic regional and national formal and informal health training institutions and research on the technology and health problems of small island developing States, paying more attention to malaria, nutrition, drugs, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and maternal and infant health care, and support national and regional efforts to improve urban/rural settlements.
- (viii) Support an integrated approach to drug-abuse control, in accordance with international conventions, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1954, 12/ 14/ the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1954, 13/ 14/ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), 15/ and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988). 16/
- (ix) Support environmental education programmes specific to island environments and adapted to all levels, including primary and secondary schools, with curricula and materials tailored to the interests and needs of end-users.
- (x) Continue to support and increase, where possible, scientific and technical training in order to promote sustainable development.
- (xi) Support programmes aimed at increasing the involvement of community-based organizations in conservation and natural resource management programmes, including planning and decision-making.
- (xii) Provide assistance for the training of policy makers in the area of natural resources management, including policy related courses for the resolution of competing demands, the multiple use of resources and other policy related environmental issues.
- (xiii) Support small island developing States in their efforts to improve urban/rural settlements, by promoting projects aimed at human development and the elimination of poverty, particularly urban development options such as decentralization, and by ensuring that such projects have adequate resources.

65. The recommendations and language contained in the present chapter should in no way prejudice discussions at the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994.

#### XV. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

66. Effective implementation, monitoring and review of the present Programme of Action is essential for the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Programme of Action provides an opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its commitment to the means of implementation adopted in Agenda 21. Since small island developing States are among the most environmentally vulnerable, the United Nations system and the international community, in line with Principle 6 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and on the basis of chapter 17, section G of Agenda 21, shall give special priority to the situations and the needs of small island developing States in the implementation of the Programme of Action. That will require, in particular, providing adequate resources for implementation and actions at the national, regional and international levels.

67. The implementation of the Programme of Action shall be consistent with a number of parallel international processes important to the sustainable development of small island developing States that contain relevant provisions. Those processes include the Commission on Sustainable Development; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; 17/ the International Conference on Population and Development; the intergovernmental negotiations on land-based sources of marine pollution of UNEP; the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (INCD); the World Coast Conference 1993; the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa; 18/ the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and other relevant international instruments for the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal; the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat; 20/ the Fourth World Conference on Women; the World Summit for Social Development; and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. Support for the participation of small island developing States in those processes will be important and those processes will need to reflect the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. As small island developing States develop their approaches for sustainable development, the international community should pursue actions that will improve the capacity of small islands to address a number of specific issues, making the most efficient use possible of opportunities in other international forums to ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach.

68. As recognized in Agenda 21, Governments will be primarily responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The sustainable development of small island developing States will require the development of national and regional strategies, plans, policies and processes. International cooperation to support and complement such efforts will be essential. The United Nations system has a key role to play in close cooperation and coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, which are called upon to contribute in large measure to that effort. For small island developing States, regional and subregional efforts have proved successful and will remain the principal instruments for collective action. Consistent with Agenda 21, the implementation of the Programme of Action will also require the engagement and active participation of major groups, including women; children and youth; indigenous people and their communities; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and their trade unions; business and industry; the scientific and technological community; and farmers.

#### A. National implementation

69. Small island developing States have begun to implement Agenda 21. In many cases, national strategies have been or are being developed as a basis for action. Further progress is required in order to ensure that environmental considerations are given appropriate significance, in particular at central levels of decision-making, and that there is a full integration of environmental and developmental considerations at both micro- and macro-levels respecting

domestic, environmental and cultural values. Considerable emphasis has been placed on building endogenous capacity throughout the Programme of Action, which will require considerable effort to implement.

70. Progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Global Conference will depend ultimately on the resources that small island developing States can mobilize from internal and external sources to meet the great challenges of sustainable development in general and capacity-building in particular.

71. Critical to the effective implementation of the objectives, policies and mechanisms agreed to by Governments in all programme areas of Agenda 21 will be the commitment and genuine involvement of all social groups. New participatory approaches to policy-making and implementation of sustainable development programmes will be necessary at all levels. In that regard, there is a special role for groups that include women, youth, senior citizens, indigenous people and local communities, as well as the private sector, labour and non-governmental organizations. As stated in Agenda 21, one of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making.

72. Some of the important actions necessary at the national level are described below.

#### 1. Finance

73. The implementation of the Programme of Action will require adequate resources to reflect the increased significance attached to sustainable development considerations in national development planning. Environment and development strategies will also need to be integrated at the outset of decision-making processes so as to ensure that macroeconomic policies are supportive of national sustainable development goals and priorities. In that regard, while in general the financing for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level will come from the public and private sectors of small island developing States, various financing channels, including those referred to in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, need to be explored in line with the specific circumstances of small island developing States.

74. In addition, resources at the national level should be further increased to meet the sustainable development goals and priorities articulated in the light of the Programme of Action, by optimizing the impact of available resources and by exploring possibilities for increasing the use of economic instruments, promoting private sector investment and using innovative financial mechanisms with a view to achieving an appropriate mix between traditional regulation and market-based mechanisms. A move towards increasing the use of economic instruments could be regarded as an important indirect complementary mechanism for the financing of sustainable development at the national level.

75. Among possible innovative financial mechanisms, small-scale grants and micro-enterprise loans for sustainable development activities at the community level should be explored.

76. For small island developing States, in particular the least developed amongst them, official development assistance (ODA) is a major source of external funding. To maximize the benefits and impact of that financial and

technical assistance, operational mechanisms should be reviewed and/or developed to ensure the fullest possible coordination among donors, small island developing States and relevant international and non-governmental organizations, taking into account local and community concerns.

## 2. Trade

77. In order to achieve greater and more stable export earnings, small island developing States should seek to develop a more diversified production structure for goods and services that exploits existing or potential comparative advantages and is consistent with environment and development policies that are mutually supportive.

## 3. Technology

78. Measures should be encouraged to enhance the capacity for developing indigenous technology, including the capacity to manage, assess, acquire, disseminate and develop technologies, and for utilizing appropriate and environmentally sound technologies, while adequately and effectively protecting intellectual property rights. Efforts should also be made to ensure, subject to national legislation and policies, that the technology, knowledge and customary and traditional practices of local and indigenous people, including resource owners and custodians, are adequately and effectively protected and that they thereby benefit directly, on an equitable basis and on mutually agreed terms, from any utilization of such technologies, knowledge and practices or from any technological development directly derived therefrom.

## 4. Legislation

79. New legislation should be developed and existing legislation revised, where appropriate, to support sustainable development, incorporating customary and traditional legal principles where appropriate, backed up with training and adequate resources for enforcement.

## 5. Institutional development

80. Appropriate national measures for institutional development should be adopted to integrate environmental, population and development strategies in national and sectoral development planning in order to achieve sustainable development.

## 6. Information and participation

81. Efforts should be made to increase the awareness and involvement of non-governmental organizations, women, local communities and other major groups in national planning, the development of environmentally sound and sustainable technologies, and the implementation of sustainable development programmes. They should include establishing or strengthening networks for the dissemination of information to assist effective participation in the planning and implementation of sustainable development activities.

## 7. Human resource development

82. National capacity-building should be increased at all levels by promoting public awareness and human resource development, including education, training and skill development, particularly of technicians, scientists and decision makers, to enable them to better plan and implement sustainable development programmes.

### B. Regional implementation

83. In addition to ongoing programmes for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and recognizing the need to implement all activities within the Programme of Action, a number of important programmes and measures are necessary at the regional level to support national priorities. Those programmes and measures are described below.

#### 1. Finance

84. Coordinated approaches should be developed to the extent possible, using the mechanisms for consultations referred to in paragraph 132 below, as appropriate, to mobilize financial resources for national and regional efforts to implement sustainable development, including improving access to financial resources, continuing to encourage private investment and identifying opportunities for introducing innovative financial mechanisms.

85. Regional development banks and other regional and subregional organizations should also be encouraged to increase their technical and, as appropriate, financial assistance in support of sustainable development in small island developing States at the community, national and subregional levels, including through mechanisms that can provide small-scale grants and micro-enterprise loans.

#### 2. Technology

86. The cooperative development and sharing of appropriate technology through regional organizations and centres/networks should be encouraged as a means of supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States.

#### 3. Legislation

87. National efforts to develop comprehensive legislation in support of sustainable development and to ratify and implement international conventions should be supported. Legal training and training manuals in the areas of environmental impact assessment, cultural heritage, pollution, civil enforcement, mediation, and prosecution should be supported and, where appropriate, the harmonization of environmental legislation and policies within and among small island developing States in order to ensure high levels of environmental protection should be encouraged.

#### 4. Institutional development

88. National efforts to implement effective institutional models, at all levels, for integrating environmental and population considerations within development and sectoral planning, including the development and implementation of appropriate approaches to integrated coastal zone management should be supported.

#### 5. Human resource development

89. National efforts at capacity-building through human resource development, particularly through increased training at all levels, particularly of technicians, scientists and decision makers, should be promoted and supported to facilitate all aspects of planning and implementing programmes for sustainable development.

#### C. International implementation

90. The Programme of Action is part of the process of the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular, chapter 17, section G.

##### 1. Finance

91. The implementation of the Programme of Action will require the provision of effective means, including adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources in accordance with chapter 33 of Agenda 21 to reflect the increased significance attached to sustainable development considerations in small island developing States. The international community should supplement national efforts on the part of small island developing States for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action through mechanisms to maximize access to concessional financial and technical assistance, and grant assistance, at the levels necessary to support their sustainable development efforts.

92. To that end, it is essential to honour all financial commitments contained in Agenda 21, taking into account, inter alia, Principle 6 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. In particular, there is a need to activate the commitment made at UNCED to maximize the availability of adequate, predictable, new and additional resources using all available funding sources and mechanisms, as laid down in chapter 33 of Agenda 21. In that respect, there is a need to ensure better and more efficient use of ODA and other existing external sources of finance. In addition, the use of innovative financing mechanisms, taking into account the objectives and provisions of chapter 33 of Agenda 21, should be explored. Furthermore, there is a need to coordinate the efforts of donors and recipients.

93. The international community should provide to small island developing States concessional financial and technical assistance, and grant assistance, at the levels necessary to support their sustainable development. International financial and technical assistance should take account of the specific development needs and priorities, at the national and regional levels, of small island developing States, as outlined in the Programme of Action; of their sustainable development potential; and of the prospects for increasing their contribution to global sustainability. The concessional assistance provided to small island developing States, both multilaterally and bilaterally, should be



targeted where it is most needed and should be consistent with their sustainable development objectives and priorities.

94. Since global environmental problems, particularly with respect to climate change, biological diversity and international waters, are of great significance and concern to small island developing States, the restructured GEF should be seen as an important channel of assistance in those areas, through the provision of new and additional resources. In the determination of eligibility criteria related to funding, and in the development of project proposals for funding, GEF should pay due attention to the special needs and requirements of small island developing States.

95. The international community should seek to ensure that international institutions, including financial institutions, pay appropriate attention to the needs and priorities of small island developing States identified in the Programme of Action. In that regard, the UNDP Capacity 21 programme is particularly applicable. The international community should also support, as appropriate, increased access to credit, including the facilitation of micro-enterprise loans and the establishment of environmental trust funds, and should promote foreign direct investment, joint ventures and other private sector initiatives in accordance with national laws. In that context, a supportive international and domestic economic climate conducive to sustained economic growth and development is important in order to achieve sustainability.

## 2. Trade

96. In order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, small island developing States need to develop overseas markets for value-added exports in areas in which they are internationally competitive. In addition, many small island developing States are dependent on the international commodity markets for a major proportion of their export receipts. Poor market access and reliance on a single commodity are among the problems faced by many small island developing States. The need for a supportive international economic climate and an open and non-discriminatory trading system is essential, as demonstrated by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, to the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the small island developing States. Trade liberalization with a view to enhancing access to markets for the exports of small island developing States is particularly important.

97. Given their limited possibilities for generating local value-added, deriving from their small market size, narrow resources base and limited production of inputs, special efforts are needed to assist small island developing States to increase their production and exports. Towards that objective, special consideration should be given, where appropriate, to the local value-added criteria applicable to the exports of small island developing States.

98. The international community should seek to develop better functioning and transparent international commodity markets. The international community should also assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve greater diversification of commodity sectors within a macroeconomic framework that takes into account a country's economic structure, resource endowments and market opportunities, as well as environmental considerations. In that connection, the fulfilment of measures designed under paragraph 2.16 of Agenda 21 is relevant to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

99. Taking into account the relevant work of international economic and trade organizations, a study should be undertaken on the effects of trade liberalization and globalization on the sustainable development of small island developing States, including relevant recommendations.

3. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building

100. The transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, technical cooperation among developing countries, including among small island developing States, and the development and use of indigenous technology constitute a crucial process for achieving sustainable development in small island developing States. In particular, the promotion of and access to environmentally sound technologies is a key requirement for enhancing the endogenous capacity of small island developing States.

101. In the context of small island developing States, there is a particular need to focus on disseminating information regarding available technology; improving the endogenous capacity of small island developing States to absorb, manage and utilize environmentally sound technologies through, inter alia, education and training; promoting, facilitating and financing access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, ensuring the need to adequately and effectively protect intellectual property rights as well as taking into account the special needs of developing countries; and ensuring, as appropriate, the need to adequately and effectively protect the technology, knowledge and customary and traditional practices of local and indigenous people, including resource owners and custodians.

102. The fulfilment by Governments and international organizations of the measures described in paragraph 34.18 of Agenda 21 is also of critical importance to small island developing States.

(a) Information

103. The use of the existing, as well as the establishment of, collaborative networks of subregional and regional research and information systems, in particular mechanisms to facilitate access by small island developing States to information, should be supported.

104. Information on environmental emergencies that may result from poor or inappropriate application of technologies, as well as early warning information aimed at preventing natural and environmental disasters, should be disseminated.

105. UNDP should be invited to coordinate a feasibility study in collaboration with the small island developing States and relevant subregional organizations for the implementation of a small island developing States information network (SIDS/NET). Such a study should be completed before the commencement of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

106. UNDP should be invited to coordinate a feasibility study, in collaboration with small island developing States and relevant subregional organizations, to develop a small island developing States technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP) to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation on sustainable development. An integral component of SIDS/TAP should be the compilation of a

directory of institutions and scholars with recognized expertise in the sustainable development of small island developing States. The study and the initial compilation of the directory should be completed before the commencement of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

107. To support small island developing States in identifying and developing facilities for eco-, nature and cultural tourism, as identified in chapter VIII, section A, subparagraph (iii) and section C, subparagraph (i), and consistent with current approaches to conserve biological diversity in small island developing States, relevant international organizations, in particular the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), should, in close collaboration with small island developing States and through their relevant regional organizations, facilitate the listing of areas within small island developing States for listing under natural and cultural provisions of the World Heritage Convention. Those areas, and others conserved using community-based, participatory approaches, would form the basis of small island developing States/Heritage - a comprehensive network/trail of sites of natural and cultural significance throughout small island developing States.

(b) Capacity-building

108. The national capacities of small island developing States to assess, manage, absorb and utilize new technologies should be strengthened. In that context, the existing administrative infrastructure will need to be strengthened so as to train personnel at all levels and educate the end-users of those technologies. The process should include training and skills development, especially for women, youth and indigenous people.

109. Small island developing States should cooperate among themselves and with other developing countries that are in a position to do so with a view to developing and improving environmentally sound technologies. The international community should extend its full support to initiatives aimed at promoting technology cooperation and capacity-building among small island developing States and other developing countries.

110. The Commission on Sustainable Development plays an important role in monitoring and focusing on proposals for mechanisms to promote the transfer, use and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies that should be explored in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

(c) Finance

111. Bilateral and multilateral donors should strive to increase their financial support at the national, regional and international levels for activities that are designed to promote and facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to small island developing States.

4. Legislation and training

112. International environmental law is an increasingly complex subject that requires careful analysis with respect to its applicability to, and integration with, national law. Regional and international programmes to enhance the capacity of small island developing States to develop and implement appropriate national environmental legislation are very important. Such programmes should include providing support to small island developing States for:

(a) Training, including in all aspects of environmental law and, where applicable, customary law;

(b) Strengthening their capacity to participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements or instruments;

(c) Initiating national implementation of international agreements or instruments.

#### 5. Vulnerability index

113. Small island developing States, in cooperation with national, regional and international organizations and research centres, should continue work on the development of vulnerability indices and other indicators that reflect the status of small island developing States and integrate ecological fragility and economic vulnerability. Consideration should be given to how such an index, as well as relevant studies undertaken on small island developing States by other international institutions, might be used in addition to other statistical measures as quantitative indicators of fragility.

114. Appropriate expertise should continue to be utilized in the development, compilation and updating of the vulnerability index. Such expertise could include scholars and representatives of international organizations that have at their disposal the data required to compile the vulnerability index. Relevant international organizations are invited to contribute to the development of the index. In addition, it is recommended that the work currently under way in the United Nations system on the elaboration of sustainable development indicators should take into account proposals on the vulnerability index.

#### D. Institutional arrangements, monitoring and review

115. Existing international funding sources and mechanisms should ensure that available financial resources, including new and additional financial resources, are effectively applied to address the specific needs and concerns of small island developing States identified in the Programme of Action.

116. Donors should utilize appropriate international coordination mechanisms to focus attention on the special needs of small island developing States.

#### 1. Intergovernmental follow-up

117. The Commission on Sustainable Development, in carrying out its functions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 and its Multi-Year Thematic Programme of Work, should include in its consideration matters related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. To that effect, the Commission on Sustainable Development should, inter alia:

(a) Make arrangements for monitoring and reviewing, in a distinct and identifiable manner, in the context of its Multi-Year Thematic Programme of Work and the annual consideration of cross-sectoral issues, the implementation of the provisions agreed upon in the Programme of Action;

(b) Carry out an initial review of the progress achieved and steps taken to implement the Programme of Action, to be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1996 in accordance with its Multi-Year Thematic Programme of Work. Furthermore, in 1997, when the Commission will carry out the overall review of Agenda 21 with a view to preparing for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, the Commission should recommend specific modalities for the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999. That full review would include the question of the convening of a second global conference in accordance with chapter 17, section G of Agenda 21;

(c) Recommend that the sub-item on the agenda of the General Assembly entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", under the item "Environment and sustainable development", be retained and amended to read "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

## 2. Reporting

118. In preparation for the reviews in 1996 and 1999, the Secretary-General should prepare analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, identifying, where possible, any obstacle to its implementation. The Secretary-General's reports should include consideration of system-wide coordination and inputs from the relevant regions.

119. The reports should also analyse activities in respect of regional implementation and should include:

- (a) Activities of United Nations agencies at the regional level;
- (b) Activities of other appropriate non-United Nations regional and subregional organizations;
- (c) Multilateral, regional and bilateral activities;
- (d) National level activities;
- (e) Activities of non-governmental organizations, women and other major groups;
- (f) Means by which the coordination of United Nations regional activities has taken place at the inter-agency level, together with suggestions for improvement.

120. The Secretary-General should also prepare reports for the reviews in 1996 and 1999 that contain updated information on current donor activities in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States, as well as on the adequacy of international resources devoted to the Programme of Action.

121. In that context, all States and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other organizations and groups, are invited to provide information on action taken to implement the Programme of Action.

### 3. Inter-agency coordination

122. The Programme of Action should provide in the context of Agenda 21 the principal basis for the coordination of activities within the United Nations system for the sustainable development of small island developing States. To ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action by the United Nations system and taking into account the relevant provisions contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and resolution 47/191, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development should make the necessary provisions to consider, on a regular basis, system-wide coordination in the implementation of Conference outcomes.

### 4. Secretariat support structure

123. It is essential for the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action that a clearly identifiable, qualified and competent entity within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat be put in place to provide secretariat support for both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. To that end, the necessary resources should be provided, relying on the most efficient and cost-effective use of resources, to fulfil the following functions:

(a) Provide substantive secretariat support to intergovernmental and inter-agency processes related to the monitoring, review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) Act as a liaison and focal point for Governments, organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on matters related to the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) Prepare reports to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other relevant bodies, on the implementation of the Programme of Action, drawing on the inputs from all appropriate sources;

(d) Provide support, as appropriate, to other activities emanating from the Programme of Action.

### 5. Organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system

124. In the implementation of the Programme of Action, all relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system have an important role within their respective areas of expertise and mandates in supporting and supplementing national efforts. The relevant programmes being carried out by the United Nations system and the relevant regional and multinational organizations in the regions and individual countries should be recognized, consolidated and expanded or rationalized, as appropriate. Initiatives to promote economies of scale through integration should also be encouraged. Where applicable, the common objectives of members of regional integration arrangements should be taken into account.

125. As set forth in Agenda 21, UNEP, taking into account development perspectives, should continue to provide policy guidance and coordination in the

field of the environment, including in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

126. As set forth in Agenda 21, UNDP should continue to carry out its mandate as the lead agency in organizing United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, and in fostering the United Nations collective thrust in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action through its network of field offices.

127. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should have a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

128. The Secretary-General is requested to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action and in that regard invite them to consider the establishment of focal points for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

6. Regional and subregional cooperation and implementation

129. In accordance with Agenda 21, regional and subregional cooperation will play an important role in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing States. The United Nations regional commissions, regional development banks and regional and subregional economic, environmental and technical cooperation organizations can contribute to that process by:

(a) Promoting regional and subregional capacity-building;

(b) Promoting the integration of environmental concerns in regional and subregional development policies;

(c) Promoting regional and subregional cooperation, where appropriate, regarding transboundary issues related to sustainable development.

130. Regional intergovernmental technical, economic and environmental organizations have an important role to play in helping Governments to take coordinated action to solve environment issues of regional significance.

131. As has been highlighted within the Programme of Action, pooling the limited human resources of small island developing States through regional cooperation and institutions is a necessary part of their progress towards sustainable development. Regional actions, based on priorities identified in the national strategies and plans of many small island developing States, require better coordination of effort, stronger regional organizations and improved access to regional and external financial and technical resources, both public and private. To assist in those efforts, renewed emphasis should be given to a more effective implementation of relevant international programmes, including coordination and interchange between regions and among islands within regions.

132. To facilitate the coordination and implementation of the Programme of Action, a mechanism for consultation should be identified or devised, where appropriate, within each region. That would include:

- (a) Donors and recipients;
- (b) Relevant United Nations organizations, regional commissions and non-United Nations regional and subregional organizations and banks;
- (c) Appropriate arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations.

133. Relevant non-United Nations regional and subregional organizations, including regional economic integration organizations, should be encouraged to take the Programme of Action into account in the fulfilment of their respective functions.

134. Each of the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations should be enabled to support regional activities to coordinate the implementation of Conference outcomes at the regional level, including providing the necessary autonomy and adequate resources to their subregional offices and operational centres, taking into account the ongoing process of decentralization. That would involve:

- (a) Assisting regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms involved in the promotion of sustainable development, as appropriate;
- (b) Acting as a point of liaison between United Nations agencies and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, and among United Nations agencies at the regional and subregional levels.

135. The Secretary-General, in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, as requested in paragraph 128 above, is also requested to report on progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations and to include a section on the action taken by regional commissions to implement the Programme of Action, particularly at the subregional level.

#### Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Ibid., annex I.

3/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II) and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

4/ International Legal Materials, vol. 26, No. 6 (November 1987), p. 1550.

5/ UNEP/190/4 (forthcoming United Nations Treaty Series publication).

6/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1046, No. 15749, p. 120.



7/ See Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1340, No. 22484), p. 263.

8/ Report of the Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Christ Church, Barbados, 7-10 April 1992 (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1993), Part III.

9/ Ibid., Part II.

10/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

11/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 993, No. 14537, p. 243.

12/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515, p. 151.

13/ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14151, p. 3.

14/ See also Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (1975) (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 976, No. 14152), p. 105.

15/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1019, No. 14956, p. 175.

16/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.1 and Corr.2.

17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.V.5

18/ International Legal Materials, vol. 30, No. 3 (May 1991), p. 775 and vol. 31, No. 1 (January 1992), p. 164.

19/ Ibid., vol. 26, No. 1 (January 1987), p. 38.

20/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 996, No. 14583, p. 245.

## Resolution 2

### Expression of gratitude to the people and Government of Barbados

#### The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Having met in Bridgetown, Barbados at the invitation of the Government of Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

1. Extends its deep appreciation to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Right Honourable L. Erskine Sandiford, for his outstanding contribution as President of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to the successful outcome of the Conference;



**United Nations**

**Report of the International Meeting  
to Review the Implementation of the  
Programme of Action for the  
Sustainable Development  
of Small Island Developing States**

**Port Louis, Mauritius  
10-14 January 2005**

**Report of the International Meeting to Review  
the Implementation of the Programme of Action  
for the Sustainable Development of Small Island  
Developing States**

Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005



United Nations • New York, 2005



*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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## Chapter I

### Resolutions adopted by the International Meeting

#### Resolution 1\*

#### **Mauritius Declaration and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

*The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,*

*Having met* in Port Louis from 10 to 14 January 2005,

1. *Adopts* the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which are annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session that it endorse the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as adopted by the International Meeting.

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\* Adopted at the 5th plenary meeting, on 14 January 2005; for the discussion, see chap. VIII.



## Annex I

### Mauritius Declaration

We, the representatives of the people of the world participating in the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis from 10 to 14 January 2005,

1. *Reaffirm* the continued validity of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>1</sup> as the blueprint providing the fundamental framework for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

2. *Also reaffirm* our commitment to the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>2</sup> and underscore that the full implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development<sup>4</sup> and the outcomes of other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits will contribute to the sustainable development of small island developing States;

3. *Reiterate* that the acknowledged vulnerability of small island developing States continues to be of major concern and that this vulnerability will grow unless urgent steps are taken;

4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States for their sustainable development through the further full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;<sup>5</sup>

5. *Also reaffirm* that small island developing States continue to be a special case for sustainable development;

6. *Recognize* that the tragic impacts of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami that occurred on 26 December 2004 and the recent hurricane season in the Caribbean and Pacific highlight the need to develop and strengthen effective disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, emergency relief, and rehabilitation and reconstruction capacities;

7. *Welcome* the declaration of the special Association of South-East Asian Nations leaders meeting held in the aftermath of the recent disaster in countries in and around the Indian Ocean, the proposed establishment of a regional natural disaster early warning system for the Indian Ocean and the South-East Asia region, and enhanced international cooperation and partnerships to build and manage effective regional early warning systems, public education and awareness, and disaster management;

8. *Commit* ourselves to fully implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>6</sup> and to further promoting international cooperation on climate change;

9. *Reiterate* that an effective multilateral system based on international law, supported by strong international institutions with the United Nations at the centre,

is fundamental for achieving international peace and security and sustainable development;

10. *Acknowledge* efforts at the regional level which address the sustainable development of small island developing States and, in this regard, pledge our support to enhance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation;

11. *Reaffirm* our commitment to support the sustainable development strategies of small island developing States through technical and financial cooperation, regional and interregional institutional assistance and an improved international enabling environment;

12. *Recognize* that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development;

13. *Also recognize* that particular attention should be given to building resilience in small island developing States, including through technology transfer and development, capacity-building and human resource development;

14. *Further recognize* that international trade is important for building resilience and the sustainable development of small island developing States, and therefore call upon international institutions, including financial institutions, to pay appropriate attention to the structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

15. *Underscore* that attention should be focused on the specific trade-related and development-related needs and concerns of small island developing States to enable them to integrate fully into the multilateral trading system, in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies;

16. *Reaffirm* our commitment to conservation and the sustainable use of island and marine biodiversity as fundamental to the sustainable development of small island developing States;

17. *Recognize* that women and youth, as well as civil society, are playing an important role in promoting sustainable development activities in small island developing States, and encourage them in their efforts;

18. *Reaffirm* our commitment to create a world fit for children as called for in the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session<sup>7</sup> and, in this regard, undertake to give all assistance to protect children and minimize the impacts of natural disasters and environmental degradation on them;

19. *Recognize* the importance of cultural identity of people and its importance in advancing sustainable development in small island developing States;

20. *Recognize* the increasing incidence of health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS, which impact disproportionately on women and youth in small island developing States, and commit ourselves to ensuring that the health needs of small island developing States are comprehensively addressed in all regional and global programmes;

21. *Have adopted* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island

Developing States, taking into account new and emerging issues, and commit ourselves to the timely implementation of the Strategy;

22. *Express appreciation* for the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in helping to advance the sustainable development of small island developing States, and invite them to strengthen their support for the Strategy through enhanced coherence, coordination and appropriate monitoring;

23. *Express particular gratitude and appreciation* to the Government and people of Mauritius for hosting the International Meeting and for the facilities made available to ensure its overwhelming success.

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>6</sup> A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

## Annex II

### Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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## Preamble

1. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>1</sup> remains the blueprint for small island developing States and the international community to address national and regional sustainable development in small island developing States that takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects that are the pillars of the holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. The Programme of Action sets out basic principles as well as specific actions that are required at the national, regional and international levels to support sustainable development in small island developing States. Along with the Programme of Action, the Rio Principles, the full implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>2</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup> (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcomes of other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>4</sup> all contribute to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

2. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>5</sup> provide the overarching framework for global poverty eradication and development support. Small island developing States' national development plans and strategies, including national sustainable development strategies, should include poverty reduction strategies, as appropriate, and measures to address their vulnerabilities and to build resilience, in order to contribute to the achievement of these internationally agreed goals and to be a key underpinning of donor and United Nations system support for small island developing States.

3. Small island developing States acknowledge that sustainable development is primarily a national responsibility but also that for small island developing States to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, must be given specific expression for small island developing States. Furthermore, there is a need for strengthened cooperation and partnership in support of sustainable development of small island developing States at the national, regional and international levels. Such partnership should be broad-based and ensure the involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders.

4. Small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development by utilizing principally their own resources in the implementation of the Programme of Action, while at the same time addressing increasing obligations under international agreements. In addition, the international community has provided financing and technical assistance in sectors that were fairly new in 1994. For the most part, the efforts of small island developing States have been pursued within the constraints of limited financial resources, including an overall decline in official development assistance to small island developing States, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, an analysis of the report shows an increase in ad hoc stand-alone projects, rather than a programmed or strategic approach. It is crucial to mobilize domestic resources, attract international flows, promote international trade as an engine for development, increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, make debt-

financing sustainable and provide external debt relief, and enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

5. The review of the Programme of Action has provided small island developing States with a valuable opportunity to measure progress in implementing its objectives. National assessment reports have been prepared, which in turn have informed the preparation of regional synthesis reports. These documents, together with the Programme of Action, form the basis of the review of the Programme of Action and should be read along with the present document in order to fully appreciate the work needed to ensure further progress.

6. Small island developing States are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their peoples by the implementation of strategies that build resilience and capacity to address their unique and particular vulnerabilities. This can be facilitated by international cooperation, including through further efforts by multilateral partners, that is more responsive to the particular needs of small island developing States.

7. In order to complement national and regional development efforts for small island developing States, there is an urgent need to enhance coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, which would facilitate the participation of small island developing States in international financial decision-making processes and institutions and in the process of setting international rules, codes, norms and standards.

8. Good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development. At the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for sustainable development. As a result of globalization, external factors have become critical in determining the success or failure of developing countries in their national efforts. The gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment that is supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, and the full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased.

9. Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all.

10. Security for small island developing States is a multidimensional concept. Specific challenges to small island developing States include, inter alia, environmental degradation, natural disasters, food security, water scarcity, HIV/AIDS, narco-trafficking, small arms trafficking and the impact of terrorism on the economic sectors and tourism in particular. Implementation of the sustainable development agenda for small island developing States must proceed notwithstanding the current emphasis on security. In this regard, the international community acknowledges the increased financial and administrative obligation at the national level that this places on all small island developing States as part of the

global fight against terrorism, and reaffirms the importance to small island developing States of international cooperation and technical and financial support, where necessary.

11. South-South cooperation, including cooperation among small island developing States, is critical at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in strategic areas, such as information and communication technology, trade, investment, capacity-building, disaster management, environment, food, agriculture, oceans, water, energy, health and education.

12. Experience has reaffirmed that sustainable development is best achieved through the adoption of integrated and holistic approaches at all levels.

13. Small island developing States recognize the importance of culture in their sustainable development since it represents the expression and identity of their people and the foundation of the richness of their cultural diversity, traditions and customs.

14. Small island developing States recognize the integral role of youth in sustainable development and the need to further ensure their participation in programmes and activities related to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

15. Small island developing States reaffirm the importance of gender equality and promoting the full and equal access of women and men to political participation at all levels, economic opportunity, health-care services and programmes, and decision-making systems for sustainable development, and the full and equal access of girls and boys, women and men to all levels of education.

## **I. Climate change and sea-level rise**

16. The adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the long-term effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some small island developing States. Based on the report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action<sup>6</sup> and other available data, small island developing States believe that they are already experiencing major adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise remains a major priority for small island developing States.

17. The international community reaffirms its commitment to achieving, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention's ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. Parties that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol<sup>7</sup> to the Convention strongly urge all States that have not done so to ratify it in a timely manner.



18. In the context of paragraphs 16 and 17 above, the international community should:

(a) Fully implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and further promote international cooperation on climate change;

(b) Continue to take, in accordance with the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, as applicable, steps to address climate change, including through: adaptation and mitigation in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; and the effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol by those countries that have ratified it;

(c) Promote increased energy efficiency and development and the use of renewable energy as a matter of priority, as well as advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, inter alia, through public and/or private partnerships, market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies and international cooperation, and support their use in small island developing States, where appropriate and in accordance with their national policies;

(d) Implement the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures, in particular those elements that are relevant to small island developing States;

(e) Work to facilitate and promote the development, transfer and dissemination to small island developing States of appropriate technologies and practices to address climate change;

(f) Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, including in small island developing States, inter alia, through continuing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the exchange of scientific information and data, including where relevant to small island developing States;

(g) Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, including as appropriate, strategies for integrated observations, inter alia, with the cooperation of relevant international organizations; and work with small island developing States to strengthen their involvement in monitoring and observing systems and enhance their access to and use of information.

19. Small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate, through allocation of dedicated financial resources, will as an integral component of their national sustainable development strategies, where appropriate, develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and interregional cooperation, including within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

20. Small island developing States, with assistance from regional development banks and other financial institutions, as appropriate, should coordinate further, on a regional basis, to establish or strengthen national and regional climate-change coordination mechanisms.

## II. Natural and environmental disasters

21. Small island developing States are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences. The tragic impacts of the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and the recent hurricane/cyclone/typhoon seasons in the Caribbean and Pacific highlight their vulnerability. Small island developing States have undertaken to strengthen their respective national frameworks for more effective disaster management and are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Strengthening the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and related small island developing States regional mechanisms as facilities to improve national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early warning capacity, increase public awareness about disaster reduction, stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, and support the mainstreaming of risk management into the national planning process;

(b) Using such opportunities as the 10-year review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,<sup>8</sup> including the programme outcome for 2005-2015 of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, to consider the specific concerns of small island developing States, including issues relating to insurance and reinsurance arrangements for small island developing States;

(c) Augmenting the capacity of small island developing States to predict and respond to emergency situations, including those affecting human settlements, stemming from natural and environmental disasters.

## III. Management of wastes

22. While some small island developing States have made significant progress in both planning and implementation of waste management policies, programmes and strategies, most of them have serious difficulties in terms of financial and technical capacity in dealing with waste management issues. Marine debris, ballast water, shipwrecks with potential to cause environmental hazard due to leaks and other forms of waste threaten the ecological integrity of small island developing States.

23. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Form regional partnerships to draw on best practices and develop innovative solutions to waste management, seeking international assistance in this effort;

(b) Work to strengthen the control of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, especially through the enhancement of activities under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,<sup>9</sup> and, where it applies, the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the

Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention);

(c) Promote sustainable waste management, including by:

(i) Identifying cost-effective and environmentally sound waste management systems;

(ii) Exploring and engaging in innovative forms of financing of waste management infrastructure, including the creation of appropriate national environmental trust funds;

(iii) Promoting reduction, reuse and recycling of waste and waste management initiatives;

(iv) Developing projects appropriate to small island developing States for the use of waste as a resource, including for the production of energy as a waste management solution;

(d) Promote national, regional and international cooperation to reduce the quantity of waste disposed of at sea, including by working with others in the international community to strengthen regimes relating to the disposal of waste at sea, particularly those regimes established by the International Maritime Organization, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention of 1972),<sup>10</sup> and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(e) Promote the broad participation in and early implementation of the new International Maritime Organization Convention on Ballast Water.

24. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States and taking into account sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.

25. The international community notes that cessation of transport of radioactive materials through small island developing States regions is the ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improving mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communications in relation to safe maritime transport of radioactive materials. States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns, including the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport.

#### **IV. Coastal and marine resources**

26. Small island developing States are defined by their historic, cultural and economic links to the oceans and seas. They continue to be heavily dependent on

their marine resources, particularly for the sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities. The management of coastal and marine resources have become integrated into broader ocean management strategies since the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.<sup>11</sup> However, for small island developing States that are States parties to the Convention, implementation continues to be impeded by financial constraints and a lack of capacity.

27. To overcome these constraints, it is important to give appropriate priority at all levels, including in national and regional sustainable development agendas, to ocean issues, including fisheries. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to enable small island developing States to, among other things:

(a) Complete the delimitation of their maritime boundaries;

(b) Submit any claims to the Continental Shelf Commission by 13 May 2009 or such later date as may be applicable in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(c) Further the work on the assessment of living and non-living seabed resources within their national jurisdiction.

28. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to build technical and financial capacities to:

(a) Establish effective monitoring, reporting and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by small island developing States as flag States, to further implement international plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to manage fishing capacity;

(b) Strengthen or develop, where necessary, national and regional sustainable and responsible fisheries management mechanisms consistent with the 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;<sup>12</sup>

(c) Fully implement surveillance and monitoring systems;

(d) Analyse and assess the status of fish stocks;

(e) If they have not yet done so, consider becoming parties to the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks<sup>13</sup> and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas,<sup>14</sup> as well as relevant regional agreements for the conservation and management of fisheries;

(f) Establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure and legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law. In this regard, until such action is undertaken small island developing States flag States are encouraged to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry.

29. Distant-water fishing nations are encouraged to provide small island developing States with adequate technical and financial support to enhance the effective and sustainable management of their fisheries resources.

30. In collaboration with other States and making use of regional mechanisms, small island developing States will work to put in place integrated policies and sound management approaches, such as marine protected areas, consistent with relevant international agreements, and develop national capacity to monitor, conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems, taking into account the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>15</sup> at its seventh session. Small island developing States should address as a priority the impacts of coastal development, coastal tourism, intensive and destructive fishing practices and pollution, as well as the unreported and illegal trade in corals, on the future health of coral reefs. To facilitate these initiatives, the international community should provide technical and financial support for:

- (a) Regional monitoring efforts and Global Ocean Observing System;
- (b) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission marine science programmes that are of particular relevance to small island developing States;
- (c) The strengthening, where appropriate, of representative networks of marine protected areas, consistent with decision VII/28<sup>16</sup> of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (d) Activities to address the impact of coral bleaching, including enhancing resistance and recovery.

31. Small island developing States and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, drawing upon best practices from other regions, including the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the ocean governance project involving all regions, and the establishment of related initiatives in other small island developing States regions.

32. Small island developing States and the international development partners should fully implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,<sup>17</sup> particularly with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, by undertaking initiatives specifically addressing the vulnerability of small island developing States.

## **V. Freshwater resources**

33. Small island developing States continue to face water management and water access challenges, caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, pollution of water resources, saline intrusion (which may be exacerbated, inter alia, by sea-level rise, the unsustainable management of water resources, and climate variability and climate change) and leakage in the delivery system. Sustained urban water supply and sanitation systems are constrained by a lack of human, institutional and financial resources. The access to safe drinking

water, the provision of sanitation and the promotion of hygiene are the foundations of human dignity, public health and economic and social development and are among the priorities for small island developing States.

34. Small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions have demonstrated their commitment to cooperation with each other through the Joint Programme of Action for Water and Climate. The international community is invited to support the implementation of that Programme of Action, and the proposal to extend it to all small island developing States regions.

35. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support from the international community, to meet the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development 2015 targets on sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, hygiene, and the production of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005.

36. The international community is requested to provide assistance to small island developing States for capacity-building for the development and further implementation of freshwater and sanitation programmes and the promotion of integrated water resources management, including through the Global Environment Facility focal areas, where appropriate; the World Water Assessment Programme; and support to the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and the European Union Water for Life Initiative.

37. The Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006, and its preparatory process will be an opportunity for the small island developing States to continue to seek international support to build self-reliance and implement their agreed priority actions as submitted to the Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Actions, namely, integrated water resources management (including using the Hydrological Cycle Observing System); water demand management; water quality capacity-building; water governance; regional water partnerships; and water partnerships among small island developing States.

## **VI. Land resources**

38. The pressures on land resources that existed 10 years ago have only been exacerbated by competing uses, increased demands and land degradation. National strategies have to be elaborated on sustainable land use, which tackle such issues as land tenure and management systems, combating desertification and protecting biodiversity. These strategies should include environmental impact assessments and identify the necessary policy changes and capacity-building needs within the framework of the three pillars of sustainable development.

39. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Develop capacity to implement the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international agreements in relation to land resources;

(b) Develop capacity for sustainable land management and self-generating agro-ecosystems by building on communal tenure systems and traditional land-use planning and practices for crop, livestock and aquaculture production, taking into

account the increasing competition for land resources resulting from tourism, urbanization and other activities;

(c) Strengthen land tenure and management systems, move from primary to tertiary agricultural production and diversify agricultural production in a sustainable manner.

40. Most small island developing States face serious challenges of land degradation as a result, inter alia, of inappropriate land use and poor irrigation management systems. Since the main objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>18</sup> is to address land degradation, and considering the designation of the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism of the Convention, small island developing States should fully utilize available Global Environment Facility resources to develop and implement projects to address land degradation through sustainable land management. In this regard, every effort must be made to ensure the full implementation of the Convention.

41. Faced with the challenge of competitiveness, small island developing States should seek additional opportunities for diversifying their economies and markets, especially in the agricultural sector, in order to increase their degree of food security and self-reliance. Small island developing States are committed individually and through partnerships with each other, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Create an enabling environment for sustainably enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting agricultural diversification and food security;

(b) Remove production constraints and build programmes in such areas as seed production and integrated pest management systems;

(c) Enhance food processing, marketing and product development and quality control;

(d) Promote relevant research and development and the use of appropriate modern technologies;

(e) Promote sustainable aquaculture.

42. To elaborate concrete strategies to enhance efficient and sustainable agricultural production and ensure their food security through such initiatives as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sustainable agriculture and rural development initiative, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations are urged to provide practical support to small island developing States for research into such matters as the diversification of agriculture; alternative uses for crops; improved husbandry; irrigation and water management; aquaculture; and the use of appropriate modern technologies for smallholder agriculture, including agricultural extension services.

43. The 2005 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations conference of small island developing States ministers of agriculture is urged to consider endorsing priority actions to enhance the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to small island developing States sustainable development policies, in the light of the importance of the nutrition and food security needs of small island developing States.

44. Sustainable forest management to reduce forest loss and forest degradation is crucial to small island developing States. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community and in the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and subsequent action of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity work programme on forest biodiversity and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to:

(a) Develop and strengthen partnerships for sustainable forest management, such as the Iwokrama rainforest programme;

(b) Increase stakeholder participation in all discussions regarding the development, management and conservation of forest and tree resources;

(c) Ensure adherence to national forest policies and legislation that have been developed to safeguard the rights of resource owners and legitimate or licensed users through the use of administrative and management mechanisms for the alienation, licence or transfer of “traditional rights” for commercial development purposes;

(d) Increase the awareness, promotion, adoption and enforcement of legislation to ensure that sustainable rotational logging practices and replanting initiatives are implemented.

45. In the mining sector, we recognize that small island developing States are committed, with the support of the international community, to improve national capacity for:

(a) Policy and legislation formulation;

(b) The development of databases and assessment of mineral and aggregate resources;

(c) Negotiations with transnational corporations, including measures to enhance the transparency of revenue flows;

(d) The evaluation of mineral sector projects, including using environmental and social impact assessment to identify opportunities and risks and ensuring compliance with mitigatory and ameliorative measures where impacts are negative, as well as dealing with mining tenement issues and raising land “owner” awareness and participation.

## **VII. Energy resources**

46. Energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many small island developing States, and many remote and rural small island developing States communities have little or no access to modern and affordable energy services. Modern research has produced commercially feasible options of energy supply, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, hydro- and ocean energy. Indeed, many small island developing States are particularly suited to these options because of their geographical location. However, existing technologies may not always be adaptable to the needs and circumstances of many small island developing States communities.



47. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to develop and implement integrated energy programmes. These programmes should include, inter alia, comprehensive assessments of energy resources, current and projected patterns of energy use, and ways to enhance energy efficiency in small island developing States, and promote the development and use of renewable energy as well as advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the circumstances of small island developing States. Regional development banks have an important role in this process. Support for technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and for capacity-building are important.

48. Small island developing States are committed, with the required support of the international community, to strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts in the area of energy supply and services, including the promotion of demonstration projects. It is recognized that a renewed effort is required by all for small island developing States to achieve real and demonstrable progress in this area by the time of its review by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006, in accordance with its work programme.

49. Small island developing States and other international partners should work together to promote wider dissemination and application of technology that is appropriate to small island developing States and to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the United Nations renewable energy fund and the United Nations Development Programme thematic trust fund on energy for sustainable development, for this purpose. Cooperation among small island developing States should be further pursued in areas where success has been achieved, such as a collaborative agency for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in small island developing States.

## **VIII. Tourism resources**

50. Tourism is an important contributor to economic growth in small island developing States. Yet it is recognized that the sector is open to many exogenous shocks. In addition, if tourism is not developed sustainably, it can damage or even destroy the natural environment that attracts tourism in the first place. There is also a continuing challenge to establish the appropriate balance between the development of tourism and that of other sectors of the economy. There is a particular challenge to make appropriate linkages to other sectors, including to local service providers so as to retain resources within the country, and in particular to create synergistic linkages between tourism and the agricultural sector by promoting island foods and beverages supply chains, rural hospitality and agro-tourism.

51. Small island developing States, with the required support of regional and international tourism organizations and other relevant stakeholders, should monitor the impacts of tourism development to ensure that tourism development and social and environmental priorities are mutually supportive at all levels. They must also facilitate the design or refinement of guidelines and best practices appropriate for assessing the carrying capacity of small island developing States, including the provision of technical and financial support to conduct these assessments. To this end, they should develop and implement appropriate partnerships. Small island developing States should also implement the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism

development adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting.<sup>19</sup>

52. Small island developing States, with the necessary support of regional and international tourism organizations, should also find effective ways and means to develop and implement sustainable tourism development plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector, and should integrate these plans into their national strategies for sustainable development. In addition, they should develop and implement community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism, and build the necessary capacities of civil society and local stakeholders, while protecting culture and traditions and effectively conserving and managing natural resources.

## **IX. Biodiversity resources**

53. Many small island developing States have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,<sup>20</sup> and have initiated national biodiversity strategic action plans and developed national nature reserves and protected areas. The World Summit on Sustainable Development confirmed the essential links between biodiversity and livelihoods. The achievements of the targets set by the international community in relevant international conventions, in particular those of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and endorsed by the Summit, are of particular importance to small island developing States.

54. To achieve those targets in the agreed time frames, the following actions are required by small island developing States, with necessary support from the international community:

(a) Integrating biodiversity protection into national sustainable development strategies;

(b) Building effective partnerships between all relevant stakeholders essential to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources;

(c) Addressing island biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity in a manner that responds to the unique characteristics of small island developing States and to the threats related to climate change, land degradation and their particular vulnerabilities;

(d) Implementing the guidelines of the Convention on biodiversity and tourism development;

(e) Enhancing national efforts, both by Governments and other stakeholders, in the implementation of the programme of work of the Convention on protected areas, including the establishment of protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information;

(f) Controlling major pathways for potential alien invasive species in small island developing States;

(g) Developing local capacities for protecting and developing the traditional knowledge of indigenous groups for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, taking into account the Bonn Guidelines

on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization as adopted at by the Conference of Parties to the Convention at its sixth meeting;<sup>21</sup>

(h) Developing the capacity to promote cooperation among small island developing States for biodiversity resources, shared ecosystem management and exchange of experience, including through support for strong networks, by both Governments and other stakeholders;

(i) Participating in the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Group of the Convention on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing to elaborate and negotiate the nature, scope and elements of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing in accordance with the terms of decision VII/19 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, including, inter alia, the issue of unauthorized access to and misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, which is of particular concern to small island developing States;

(j) Developing human and institutional capacity at the national and regional levels in small island developing States for research in the area of biodiversity, including taxonomy;

(k) Supporting, through the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks;

(l) Supporting small island developing States efforts in building community capacity to conserve important species, sites and habitats.

## **X. Transport and communication**

55. Transport and communications remain important lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world. While dramatic technological breakthroughs over the last decade, such as the development of the Internet and satellite communications, have mitigated the traditional isolation of small island developing States, transport and communication nevertheless remain important challenges in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development nationally and in their regions.

56. Small island developing States, with the support of the international community, should cooperate and develop viable regional transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies.

57. While the liberalization of telecommunications in some small island developing States has presented both opportunities and challenges, in many small island developing States there are still serious access limitations to basic telecommunications. The small size of the markets has prevented the maximization of the full value of liberalization through economies of scale.

58. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to taking initiatives in such areas as access to and the use of information and communication technology (ICT); the development of community multimedia centres; ICT literacy; skills development; local content and applications in building knowledge-based societies; and bridging the digital divide, particularly in rural communities. There is also a continuing need for the maintenance of low-technology communication solutions, such as high-frequency

radio for rural and remote locations. The International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant organizations are invited to support these activities in a coordinated manner. In this regard, the World Summit on the Information Society is encouraged to consider small island developing States concerns and their participation in the Summit process.

59. Taking into account the objectives of their national policies, small island developing States are urged to consider further liberalizing their telecommunications sector as one of the possible means to address the high costs caused by existing monopoly service providers. In this regard, appropriate and adequate national communications regulatory frameworks will be required.

## **XI. Science and technology**

60. It is recognized that the area of science and technology is a cross-cutting issue for all sectors for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Since 1994, some small island developing States have been able to strengthen the science and technology base of their economy, while others still require significant support.

61. Given the increasing importance of science and technology in building resilience in small island developing States, it is critical to target investments in science and technology capacity in a way that is appropriate for small island developing States. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Incorporate into national sustainable development strategies appropriate science and technology elements and support for science development in small island developing States, and provide promotion and protection of traditional knowledge and practices;

(b) Review science and technology activities in relation to environmentally sound technologies and sustainable development;

(c) Reduce environmental risk in the application of science and technology and in the utilization of indigenous technologies.

62. The strengthening and further development of cooperation and sharing of experience among small island developing States is crucial and should be made a priority, especially in regard to utilizing the national and regional institutions of small island developing States. An important activity in this regard is the operationalization of the small island developing States roster of experts; the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in cooperation with regional organizations and national Governments, should seek to complete the necessary work in this area by 2005.

63. The Small Island Developing States Network is a critical mechanism for supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States and needs maintenance, strengthening and further enhancement. The French-language portal is expected to be fully operational by 2005. A Spanish-language portal should be

developed by 2005, for which the Small Island Developing States Unit is requested to seek the necessary financial support.

## **XII. Graduation from least developed country status**

64. The adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of resolutions on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries is welcomed, and they need to be fully implemented. The two States that the General Assembly recently resolved to graduate from the list of least developed countries, as well as all of the current potential candidates for graduation from least developed country status, are small island developing States. It is critical that the elaboration and implementation of smooth national transition strategies formulated with development partners take into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of graduating States and ensure that graduation does not disrupt their development plans, programmes and projects for achieving sustainable development.

65. In its recommendations concerning least developed country status, the Committee for Development Policy has made useful progress in better reflecting the vulnerability of developing countries that face special disadvantages, such as small island developing States; the Committee's ongoing work in this regard is encouraged.

## **XIII. Trade: globalization and trade liberalization**

66. Most small island developing States, as a result of their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities, face specific difficulties in integrating into the global economy. Trade liberalization and globalization present opportunities and challenges to small island developing States, including in terms of the erosion of trade preferences. The potential benefits from trade liberalization and globalization can be best realized if the specific limitations and vulnerabilities of small island developing States are addressed at all levels.

67. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

68. The decision taken on 1 August 2004 by the World Trade Organization members, which emphasizes their resolve to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha, and the renewed commitment by World Trade Organization members to fulfilling the development dimension of the current round of World Trade Organization negotiations, which seeks to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha work programme, is a welcome development. We recognize the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation by small economies, notably small island developing States, in the deliberations and decision-making process of the World Trade Organization. Many small island developing States either are not represented at

World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva or are still grappling with the process of accession to World Trade Organization membership. Most small island developing States also experience serious capacity constraints in meeting World Trade Organization obligations.

69. In seeking to integrate into the global economy, there are a number of issues of special concern to small island developing States, including:

- (a) The World Trade Organization accession process;
- (b) Graduation and smooth transition from the United Nations list of least developed countries;
- (c) Capacity constraints;
- (d) Harmonized, coordinated and sustainably financed technical assistance;
- (e) Structural handicaps and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;
- (f) Erosion of preferences;
- (g) Structural adjustment;
- (h) Relationship between trade, environment and development;
- (i) Trade and food security;
- (j) Lack of adequate representation at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva.

#### **XIV. Sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development**

70. Small island developing States continue to require support to address the serious challenges they face in capacity development in policy and strategy formulation and implementation. Small island developing States are currently seeking to address these challenges in capacity through a more integrated approach that includes civil society and the private sector, noting that within the Caribbean Community region a charter has been established for the participation of all major groups.

71. While access to education in small island developing States has developed considerably over the last decade, it is still a fundamental component of sustainable development and capacity-building for the long term. The right to education is also a human right. In this regard, education strategies and action plans that encompass the wide-ranging needs for improved access to and quality of education need to be implemented.

72. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to further education for sustainable development through:

- (a) Supporting efforts of the respective ministries of education;

(b) Promoting comprehensive and accessible universal primary education and ensuring gender equality in all small island developing States, with a major emphasis on reducing illiteracy;

(c) Promoting technical and vocational education in order to enhance skills and facilitate the entrepreneurship necessary for the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods;

(d) Strengthening distance-learning arrangements;

(e) Integrating national sustainable development strategies and environmental education within the education systems, with particular support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and regional environmental organizations and in the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2015;<sup>22</sup>

(f) Assisting with basic infrastructure, curriculum development, where appropriate, and teacher training, working towards an integrated gender perspective;

(g) Assisting with the further development of programmes for people with special needs, in particular children and youth, especially training at a regional level;

(h) Further strengthening the training and teaching of the principles and practices of good governance at all levels and the protection of human rights.

## **XV. Sustainable production and consumption**

73. In response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the development of a 10-year framework of progress in support of regional and national initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Considering all initiatives relating to sustainable consumption and production in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

(b) Taking appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the 10-year framework on sustainable production and consumption in a coherent manner;

(c) Assessing the need for programmes on sustainable consumption and production strategies on the basis of national priorities and best practices.

## **XVI. National and regional enabling environments**

74. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Formulate and implement national sustainable development strategies by 2005, as agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Incorporate guiding principles of sustainable development into nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and all sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Develop appropriate national targets and indicators for sustainable development that can be incorporated into existing national data-collection and reporting systems in order to, inter alia, respond to the requirements of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and other relevant global and regional targets;

(d) Improve legislative, administrative and institutional structures in order to develop and implement sustainable development strategies, policies and plans, mainstream sustainable development concerns into overall policy development and implementation, and facilitate the participation of civil society in all sustainable development initiatives;

(e) Create and empower sustainable development task forces, or their equivalent, to function as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies;

(f) Rationalize legislation that affects sustainable development at the national level, where appropriate, improve coordination between legislative frameworks and develop guidelines for those who must carry out legislative objectives;

(g) Develop and implement integrated planning systems and processes;

(h) Involve youth in envisioning sustainable island living.

## **XVII. Health**

75. Health is a key determinant of sustainable development as identified through the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The strengthening and further development of cooperation and experience-sharing among small island developing States in the area of health is crucial and should be made a priority. A major concern in small island developing States is the increasing incidence of such health challenges as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, drug resistant malarial strains, dengue, severe acute respiratory syndrome, West Nile Virus, bird flu and other new and emerging diseases, and nutritional disorders, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, and their impact on sustainable development.

76. Small island developing States are also committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to addressing HIV/AIDS, which is prevalent in many countries. In addition to its impact on individuals and families, HIV/AIDS is particularly devastating for countries with small populations and limited skilled workforces, taking a severe toll on their economies as productivity declines, income levels are reduced and the social fabric is undermined. Responding effectively to HIV/AIDS is both an urgent health issue and a development imperative.

77. Other communicable and non-communicable diseases will continue to have a significant impact on the health of small island developing States communities for the foreseeable future. Further, the experience of many regions has shown that failure to effectively control such diseases as HIV/AIDS will have substantial negative impacts on future sustainable development in all small island developing States.



78. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, to effectively control these diseases through:

(a) Strengthening the health management and financing systems of small island developing States to enable them to arrest the HIV/AIDS epidemic, reduce the incidence of malaria, dengue and non-communicable diseases, and promote mental health;

(b) Technical assistance, bilaterally or through multilateral cooperation agencies, to facilitate prompt access to funds from the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a major instrument to combat these infectious diseases, thereby supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States;

(c) Enhanced accessibility to effective pharmaceutical drugs at affordable prices;

(d) The active implementation of healthy public policy and effective prevention programmes in such areas as immunization, reproductive health, mental health and health education;

(e) The development and implementation of effective surveillance initiatives at the local, national and regional levels;

(f) The facilitation of early information-sharing on possible emerging outbreaks nationally and internationally;

(g) Preparedness of countries and regional organizations to respond rapidly and effectively to outbreaks (whether naturally occurring or intentional), requiring the development and regular testing of response plans, the strengthening of response capacity and the identification of resources which can be accessed quickly;

(h) The development and implementation of modern, flexible national public health legislation;

(i) Promoting the development of traditional medicines, including medicinal plants;

(j) The implementation of targeted environmental health programmes that prevent the ill health of small island developing States populations, such as waste management, control of air pollution and improved water quality;

(k) Enhanced data collection on demographic and epidemiological trends.

## **XVIII. Knowledge management and information for decision-making**

79. Small island developing States recognize that there are new opportunities afforded by the rapid new developments in ICT to overcome the limitations of isolation and remoteness and build their resilience. These new opportunities include such areas as e-commerce, improved early warning, tele-medicine and distance-learning.

80. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, for:

(a) The identification and addressing of gaps in data and the characterization of information related to economic, social, environmental and cultural areas;

(b) Developing databases, vulnerability indexes, geographic information systems and other information systems;

(c) Establishing national and regional information and database centres, including the collection, quality control and use of metadata, analysis of data, accessibility and sharing of data and information;

(d) The expansion and extension of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century initiative to address the concerns of small island developing States;

(e) Addressing issues relating to cyber-security in small island developing States;

(f) Establishing land use databases, inter alia, through training in and access to the use of geographic information systems and remote-sensing;

(g) Strengthening and establishing, where necessary, relevant research and postgraduate programmes at regional tertiary-level institutions in small island developing States.

81. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a task force to elaborate a resilience index, supported by the international community. This work would be significantly enhanced as a result of the successful implementation of the activities outlined above.

## **XIX. Culture**

82. Small island developing States recognize the importance of the cultural identity of people and its importance for advancing sustainable development, and they also recognize the need to develop cultural industries and initiatives that offer significant economic opportunities for national and regional development. Cultural industries and initiatives are viewed as an area in which small island developing States have comparative advantage; they have the potential to diversify small island developing States economies and build their resilience while they adjust to changes in the global economy. Small island developing States are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to:

(a) Developing and implementing national cultural policies and legislative frameworks to support the development of cultural industries and initiatives in such areas as music, art, the literary and culinary arts, fashion, festivals, theatre and film, sports and cultural tourism;

(b) Developing measures to protect the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage and increase resources for the development and strengthening of national and regional cultural initiatives;

(c) Improving institutional capacity for the advocacy and marketing of cultural products and the protection of intellectual property;

(d) Seeking venture capital and access to credit for small and medium-sized cultural enterprises and initiatives, including through the establishment of culture support funds in small island developing States regions.

## XX. Implementation

83. Small island developing States and the international community recognize that the further implementation of the Programme of Action, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are mutually reinforcing. This will require a more focused and substantially increased effort, both by small island developing States themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.<sup>23</sup>

84. To adequately address their most urgent sustainable development challenges, small island developing States, with the necessary support of the international community, including through the facilitation and improvement of access to existing resources and, where appropriate, through the allocation of dedicated financial resources, will, in the following key areas:

(a) **Climate change adaptation and sea-level rise:** as an integral component of their national sustainable development strategies, where appropriate, take action to develop and implement national adaptation strategies and facilitate regional and interregional cooperation, including within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>24</sup> and, inter alia, with support from the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, as appropriate;

(b) **Energy:** take action to address the energy vulnerability of small island developing States, to promote access to energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy and advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the special circumstances of small island developing States;

(c) **Intellectual property rights and development:** take action to protect intellectual property in small island developing States, including traditional knowledge and folklore, and recognize their value;

(d) **Biodiversity:** take action to build representative systems of terrestrial and marine protected areas and to advance the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity programme of work on island biodiversity, and facilitate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization;

(e) **Culture and development:** take action to promote the development of cultural industries in small island developing States, including through cultural exchanges among small island developing States and other countries;

(f) **Natural and environmental disasters:** take action to develop partnerships to implement schemes that spread out risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and thereby increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and establish and strengthen effective early warning systems and other mitigation and response measures;

(g) **Marine resources:** take action to promote national and regional efforts in the sustainable management of marine resources of small island developing States, through appropriate assessment and management of fish stocks and effective monitoring and surveillance of fishing efforts, including appropriate enforcement measures to minimize illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overharvesting, mapping the exclusive economic zones, and improving and strengthening existing regional mechanisms, where appropriate;

(h) **Agriculture and rural development:** take action to promote agricultural competitiveness through the long-term development of efficient agricultural systems, diversification and value-added activities, and to ensure food security, inter alia, through research and development;

(i) **HIV/AIDS:** take action to urgently intensify action at all levels to prevent and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, and mitigate the impact of these diseases;

(j) **Transport and security:** take action to promote access to appropriate technology and increased technical and other assistance to further develop and manage transport infrastructure in small island developing States to meet international requirements, including those relating to security, as well as to minimize environmental impacts;

(k) **Sustainable production and consumption:** take action to develop appropriate mechanisms to address the challenges associated with the design and implementation of the sustainable production and consumption strategies of small island developing States at the national and regional levels;

(l) **Information and communication technology:** take action to enhance ICT development, including connectivity and access to affordable hardware and software.

85. To assist small island developing States in this regard will require:

(a) Substantially increasing the flow of financial and other relevant resources, both public and private, and ensuring their effective use;

(b) Improved trade opportunities;

(c) Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional or preferential basis, as mutually agreed;

(d) Education and awareness-raising;

(e) Capacity-building and information for decision-making and scientific capabilities;

(f) National country-driven and country-owned strategies for sustainable development, including poverty reduction and resilience-building.

86. Small island developing States reaffirm their commitment to meeting the sustainable development goals and priorities contained in the Programme of Action by, inter alia, more effective utilization of available resources and reinforcing their national sustainable development strategies and mechanisms. The success of the present Strategy at the national level will depend on effective human, institutional and technical capacity development, effective monitoring and coordination, including through the support of small island developing States regional organizations. At the global level, it is essential for the international community to support these goals and assist in the implementation of actions to achieve them, particularly through the provision of financial and technical support.

#### **A. Access to and the provision of financial resources**

87. The international community reaffirms its commitment to supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States through the provision of financial resources, including, inter alia, access to existing funds and financial mechanisms, such as the relevant operational programmes of the Global Environment Facility, and underlines the crucial involvement of the donor community, including the international financial institutions and regional development banks.

88. This commitment entails the adoption of a more coherent, coordinated and collaborative approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, through, inter alia:

(a) Strengthened country-driven donor coordination for small island developing States as regional groups or through national consultative processes, using existing frameworks, where relevant;

(b) Active support for regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States, such as the small island developing States university consortium, the Caribbean-Pacific water initiative and the interregional ocean governance initiative;

(c) Broad-based partnerships that ensure involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(d) Appropriate harnessing of the potential for foreign direct investment and encouraging increased foreign direct investment flows to small island developing States;

(e) Urging developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance, and encouraging developing countries, including small island developing States, to build on progress achieved to use official development assistance effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

(f) Targeting and coordinating this aid well, including through the harmonization of donor procedures, untying aid, increasing absorptive capacity and other such measures, which are particularly important when providing official development assistance to countries with limited capacity, such as small island developing States;

(g) Urging the Global Environment Facility, consistent with the decisions of relevant bodies, to simplify and improve access to and the effectiveness and efficiency of its support, including disbursement procedures, and those of its implementing agencies. The international community should facilitate the access of small island developing States to the Global Environment Facility.

## **B. Science and development and transfer of technology**

89. Access to appropriate technologies remains crucial for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Small island developing States and relevant regional and international development partners should work together to:

(a) Focus on the dissemination and use of technology that helps resilience-building in order to address the growing vulnerability (economic, environmental and social) of small island developing States;

(b) Promote access to technological system licences, with due respect for the rights of licence holders, including for the management of waste as a resource, energy efficiency and renewable energy development, through such mechanisms as regional development banks;

(c) Disseminate information on the resilience-building technologies deployed in small island developing States and on the provision of technical assistance to small island developing States;

(d) Assist small island developing States in making critical technological choices, providing information on previous experience with technology in small island developing States, in partnership with the Small Islands Developing States Network, as the mechanism for dissemination, and tertiary institutions in small island developing States;

(e) Provide technical assistance to small island developing States to help them develop institutional arrangements conducive to the registration of intellectual patents and the identification of potential partners for full-scale commercialization;

(f) Promote intersectoral synergies;

(g) Continue to strengthen science and technological collaboration through North-South and South-South Cooperation;

(h) Facilitate research into new products, maximizing the use of existing small island developing States resources;

(i) Encourage the development of appropriate programmes in support of national and regional efforts to build the science and technological capacities of small island developing States;

(j) Consider the establishment of a small island developing States dedicated technology transfer and development facility.

## C. Capacity development

90. The international community commits itself to continuing to support the efforts of small island developing States to develop human and institutional capacity through:

(a) Cooperation with other capacity development initiatives and existing programmes, such as the United Nations Development Programme capacity 2015 programme, to provide resources for education reform and make education systems relevant for small island developing States, including through the integration of national sustainable development strategies in education curricula;

(b) Investing in appropriate training, focusing on water and waste management, energy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, intellectual property rights, the development of cultural industries, tourism, disaster management, health care, trade facilitation and niche marketing, insurance, investment, agriculture, mining, forestry and fisheries and natural resources product development, and involving small island developing States NGOs and community groups;

(c) Supporting the small island developing States Universities Consortium, small island developing States regional organizations and NGO networks in order to improve the use of small island developing States intellectual resources and to provide the cadre of expertise that is needed in small island developing States at the national and regional levels, in particular in the areas of climate change, energy, integrated island management, trade and sustainable development, sustainable tourism development, international law, intellectual property rights and negotiating skills;

(d) The development of the capacity to monitor the state of the environment, economies and social and cultural institutions of small island developing States to define and further develop their national priorities and meet international obligations;

(e) The involvement of youth in envisioning sustainable island living and improving the capacity of civil society to enable them fully to contribute to sustainable development;

(f) The establishment and strengthening of centres of excellence for training and applied research within existing national and regional institutions;

(g) Enhancing the delivery of coordinated, effective and targeted trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for small island developing States, including taking advantage of existing and future market access opportunities and examining the relationship between trade, environment and development;

(h) Facilitating the development of human resources and institutional capacity within small island developing States for the implementation of the obligations of multilateral environmental agreements.

## **D. National and international governance**

### **1. National enabling environment**

91. Good governance is essential for sustainable development. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation. The following are also essential and mutually reinforcing requirements for sustainable development: freedom; peace and security; domestic stability; respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law; gender equality; market-oriented policies; and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies.

92. Small island developing States commit themselves, with the necessary support of the international community, to continue the following:

(a) Mobilizing resources at the national level to meet the sustainable development goals and priorities articulated in the Programme of Action;

(b) Developing national sustainable development strategies, including nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Developing and strengthening their legislative, administrative and institutional structures;

(d) Increasing the awareness and involvement of relevant stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development programmes;

(e) Promoting an enabling environment for investment and technology and the development of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, for sustainable development, through appropriate policies for regulatory frameworks and in a manner consistent with national laws and circumstances, to foster a dynamic and well functioning business sector, while recognizing that the appropriate role of government in market-oriented economies will vary from country to country;

(f) Engaging corporate and other private-sector actors to contribute to sustainable development;

(g) Promoting public/private partnerships.

### **2. International enabling environment**

93. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance by addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes should be ensured. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as



well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

94. International institutions, including financial institutions, should pay appropriate attention to the particular needs and priorities of small island developing States. In this regard, the international community recognizes the diversity of circumstances that exist within developing countries and the need to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. International organizations should operate on an integrated cross-sector-based approach in order to ensure the optimum utilization of resources across sectors.

95. The international community recognizes that all efforts undertaken in the implementation of the present Strategy must be carried out without adopting measures that hinder sustainable development and must be in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

### **3. Trade and finance**

96. Attention should be focused on the specific trade- and development-related needs and concerns of small island developing States to enable them to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies.

97. In order to address the concerns of small island developing States, the following considerations are of high priority:

(a) The redoubling of efforts towards the successful completion of the World Trade Organization negotiations launched at Doha on the basis of a balanced overall outcome that meets the ambition of the Doha mandate in fulfilment of the commitments ministers made at Doha;

(b) The facilitation of the accession of small island developing States, where appropriate, through enhanced technical assistance;

(c) The recognition of the importance of long-standing preferences and of the need for steps to address the issue of preference erosion;

(d) The use of appropriate long-term mechanisms to facilitate the adjustment of small island developing States to post-Doha trade liberalization and timely implementation of the trade integration mechanism for small island developing States that are members of IMF to address balance-of-payments shortfalls arising from multilateral trade liberalization;

(e) Taking into account the specific circumstances of each small island developing State when assessing the perspective of long-term debt sustainability;

(f) The implementation of programmes to facilitate remittances, encourage foreign investment and support the development of small island developing States;

(g) Developing human resources and institutional capacity to address trade-related issues that are of interest to small island developing States, as well as analysing and formulating appropriate policies and developing and providing resources for the appropriate infrastructure required to address issues relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade;

(h) Continuing the commitment of the international community to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, which provides valuable assistance to developing country members, particularly those without representation at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, to participate more actively in the Doha round of negotiations and the World Trade Organization more generally;

(i) Support for regional representation in the World Trade Organization to enhance the effective participation and negotiation capacity of small island developing States in the World Trade Organization;

(j) Working to ensure that, in the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, due account is taken of small island developing States, which have severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy within the context of the Doha work programme.

98. Furthermore, the United Nations Secretary-General is requested to consider enhancing, where appropriate, the work programmes of relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the special problems of small island developing States, in order to provide concrete recommendations to assist small island developing States in obtaining access to and deriving greater economic opportunities and benefits from the global economy. The World Trade Organization and other relevant international organizations are encouraged to use the modalities of the integrated framework of trade-related technical assistance for least developed countries to coordinate assistance programmes, including capacity-building for more effective participation in trade negotiations, and to build on national poverty reduction strategies in order to mainstream trade into the development plans of small island developing States.

## **E. Monitoring and evaluation**

99. The international community recognizes the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the present Strategy, including within the overall framework of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of United Nations summits and conferences.

## **F. Role for the United Nations in the further implementation of the Programme of Action**

100. The Commission on Sustainable Development will continue to be the primary intergovernmental body responsible for the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments related to small island developing States. Other relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system also continue to have an important role within their respective areas of expertise and mandates. All organs and programmes of the United Nations system should coordinate and rationalize their work in implementing the present Strategy. In this regard, the Commission will include these issues in its work programme, in accordance with its decision at its eleventh session.

101. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional commissions, within their respective mandates,

and to further mainstream small island developing States issues to facilitate coordinated implementation of the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels. The Secretary-General is requested to include information on progress in this regard in his annual report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

102. The Secretary-General is also requested to ensure that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, continues to provide substantive support and advisory services to small island developing States for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the United Nations Secretariat continues to mobilize international support and resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with its mandate.

103. The international community recognizes that small island developing States should have the flexibility, through simplified procedures, to report jointly on the implementation of the Programme of Action and internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to combine such reporting with other international reporting requirements.

## **G. Role of small island developing States regional institutions in monitoring and implementation**

104. Small island developing States regional institutions should play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the present Strategy.

### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>6</sup> E/CN.17/2004/8.

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

<sup>8</sup> A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

<sup>10</sup> *International Legal Materials*, vol. 26, No. 6 (November 1987), p. 1550.

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- <sup>11</sup> *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.
- <sup>12</sup> See *International Fisheries Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. I; see also A/CONF.164/37.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>15</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.
- <sup>16</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21.
- <sup>17</sup> See E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15.
- <sup>18</sup> United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
- <sup>19</sup> See decision VII/14 of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
- <sup>20</sup> See <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety>.
- <sup>21</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, decision VI/24, sect. A.
- <sup>22</sup> See General Assembly resolution 57/254.
- <sup>23</sup> See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.
- <sup>24</sup> A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.



# General Assembly

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15 December 2014

Sixty-ninth session  
Agenda item 13 (a)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 November 2014

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.6)]

### 69/15. SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it decided to organize, in 2014, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States at the highest possible level, as well as its resolutions 67/207 of 21 December 2012 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013 and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 and for providing all the necessary support;
2. *Endorses* the outcome document of the Conference, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, which is annexed to the present resolution.

*51st plenary meeting  
14 November 2014*

### Annex

#### SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

##### Preamble

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the full participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States. This can be achieved only with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations.
2. We reaffirm the commitments we made at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development: the Rio Declaration on Environment and



Development,<sup>1</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>2</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>4</sup> including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,<sup>5</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action)<sup>6</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy),<sup>7</sup> and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.<sup>8</sup> We further underscore that these processes are still being implemented and that there is a need for a more integrated approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with the support of the international community and all stakeholders.

3. We recall as well our commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>9</sup> the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>10</sup> the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>11</sup> the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>12</sup> the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>13</sup> the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>14</sup> the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>15</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>7</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 55/2.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>11</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 65/1.

<sup>14</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>15</sup> Resolution S-21/2, annex.

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

4. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles.
5. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. We recognize the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, but stress that, in the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult.
6. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.
7. We reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.
8. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>17</sup> as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.
9. We reaffirm our commitment to move the sustainable development agenda forward, and in this regard we urge all parties to take concrete measures to expeditiously advance the sustainable development of small island developing States, including through the internationally agreed development goals, in order for them to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life. We recognize the need to implement expeditiously, through genuine and durable partnerships, the global effort in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States through concrete, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented programmes.
10. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.
11. We recognize that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts

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<sup>17</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through the loss of territory.

12. With the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States being “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”, we recognize that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States. Such partnerships should be based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability.

13. We acknowledge that the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States would require appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda.

14. We recognize that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, and some have regressed economically. A number of significant challenges remain.

15. We recognize that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in small island developing States and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. We note the views expressed by small island developing States that the financial resources available to date have not been adequate to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and we also recognize that, at times, complex application procedures have prevented some small island developing States from gaining access to funds that are available internationally. In this regard, we welcome the recent Green Climate Fund Board decision to aim for a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, and we note the importance of continued support to address gaps in the capacity to gain access to and manage climate finance.

16. We note that small island developing States consider that the level of resources has been insufficient to ensure their capacity to respond effectively to multiple crises and that, without the necessary resources, they have not fully succeeded in building capacity, strengthening national institutions according to national priorities, gaining access to and developing renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development or fully integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into national plans and strategies.

17. We underscore the need for adequate and coordinated support from the United Nations system and the importance of accessible and transparent support from the international financial institutions that take fully into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and we call for a renewed dedication of United Nations system support for cooperation among small island developing States and national, regional and interregional coordination.



18. We recognize that small island developing States have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. They have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national and in some cases regional development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues. They have also mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base. Small island developing States have demonstrated strong leadership by calling for ambitious and urgent action on climate change, by protecting biodiversity, by calling for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources and by adopting strategies for the promotion of renewable energy.

19. We recognize and call for the strengthening of the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community in assisting small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and supporting their sustainable development efforts.

20. Mindful of the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not disrupt the development progress which that country has achieved, we reaffirm the need for the smooth transition of small island developing States that have recently graduated, and emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country, which can, inter alia, mitigate the possible loss of concessionary financing and reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt.

21. While the well-being of small island developing States and their peoples depends first and foremost on national actions, we recognize that there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States so as to ensure their sustainable development.

22. We reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and we underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Samoa Pathway. With renewed political will and strong leadership, we dedicate ourselves to working in meaningful partnership with all stakeholders at all levels. It is in this context that the present Samoa Pathway presents a basis for action in the agreed priority areas.

### **Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all**

#### *Development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication*

23. We recognize that the ability of the small island developing States to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation has been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively

into the global economy. The growth prospects of the small island developing States have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change, the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise.

24. As it is vitally important to support the efforts of small island developing States to build resilient societies and economies, we recognize that, beyond the rich ecosystems of those States, people are their greatest resource. In order to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable growth with full and productive employment, social protection and the creation of decent work for all, small island developing States, in partnership with the international community, will seek to increase investment in the education and training of their people. Migrants and diaspora communities and organizations also play an important role in enhancing development in their communities of origin. Sound macroeconomic policies and sustainable economic management, fiscal predictability, investment and regulatory certainty, responsible borrowing and lending and debt sustainability are also critical, as is the need to address high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, women and persons with disabilities.

25. We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, which is our overarching goal. In this regard, we consider the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We call upon the United Nations system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen its coordination and support of small island developing States that want to pursue green economy policies.

26. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development depends primarily on national action and leadership. We recognize that the private sector plays an increasingly important role in achieving sustainable economic development, including through public-private partnerships. We recognize that sustainable development will also depend, inter alia, on intergovernmental and international cooperation and the active engagement of both the public and private sectors.

27. Taking into full account their national development priorities and individual country circumstances and legislation, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to take the following actions:

(a) Enhancing international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that supports sustainable investments and growth. This includes the development of entrepreneurial and vocational skills, support for transitions from basic to secondary education and from school to work, the building and strengthening of education infrastructure, better health, active citizenship, respect for cultural diversity, non-discrimination and environmental consciousness for all people, including women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(b) Enhancing the enabling environment at the national and regional levels to attract more public and private investment in building and maintaining appropriate infrastructure, including ports, roads, transportation, electricity and power generation and information and communications technology infrastructure, and also enhancing the development impact of the private sector and the financial services industry;

(c) Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, building capacity and increasing the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and State-owned enterprises in small island developing States, as well as encouraging inclusive and sustainable industrial development with the participation of all people, including the poor, women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(d) Supporting national, regional and international initiatives that develop and increase the capacity and development impact of the financial services industry in small island developing States;

(e) Creating local decent jobs through private and public projects and encouraging entrepreneurs to start up environmentally sound businesses through adequate and appropriate incentives;

(f) Promoting and fostering an environment conducive to increased public and private sector investment and the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods that contribute to sustainable development, with full respect for international labour standards;

(g) Promoting and enhancing the use of information and communications technologies for, inter alia, education, the creation of employment, in particular youth employment, and economic sustainability purposes in small island developing States;

(h) Promoting and enhancing gender equality and women's equal participation, including in policies and programmes in the public and private sectors in small island developing States;

(i) Setting national regulatory and policy frameworks, as appropriate, that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of transparency, accountability and corporate social responsibility.

28. Acknowledging the way in which debt servicing limits the fiscal space of highly indebted small island developing States, we support the consideration of traditional and innovative approaches to promote the debt sustainability of highly indebted small island developing States, including their continued eligibility for concessionary financing from international financial institutions, as appropriate, and the strengthening of domestic revenue mobilization.

29. We acknowledge the importance of addressing debt sustainability to ensure the smooth transition of those small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

#### *Sustainable tourism*

30. Recognizing that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, we strongly support small island developing States in taking the following actions:

(a) Developing and implementing policies that promote responsive, responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism, inclusive of all peoples;

(b) Diversifying sustainable tourism through products and services, including large-scale tourism projects with positive economic, social and environmental impacts and the development of ecotourism, agritourism and cultural tourism;

(c) Promoting policies that allow local communities to gain optimum benefits from tourism while allowing them to determine the extent and nature of their participation;

(d) Designing and implementing participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular of women, youth and persons with disabilities, including through partnerships and capacity development, while conserving their natural, built and cultural heritage, especially ecosystems and biodiversity;

(e) Leveraging the expertise of, inter alia, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, the Global Observatories on Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and other United Nations bodies, as well as the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, to provide platforms for the exchange of best practices and direct and focused support to their national efforts;

(f) Establishing, upon request, an island, food and sustainable tourism support initiative based on community participation, which takes into consideration ethical values, livelihoods and human settlements, the landscape, the sea, local culture and local products, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional development banks and regional and national agricultural, cultural, environmental and tourism authorities where they exist;

(g) Establishing and maintaining, where necessary, the governance and management structures for sustainable tourism and human settlements that bring together responsibilities and expertise in the areas of tourism, environment, health, disaster risk reduction, culture, land and housing, transportation, security and immigration, planning and development, and enabling a meaningful partnership approach among the public and private sectors and local communities.

### **Climate change**

31. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and we acknowledge that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability.

32. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

33. We acknowledge the leadership role of small island developing States in advocating for ambitious global efforts to address climate change, raising awareness

of the need for urgent and ambitious action to address climate change at the global level and making efforts to adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change and to further develop and implement plans, policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with support where necessary.

34. We stress that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change in order to protect the global climate.

35. We recall the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>18</sup> and underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the Convention provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

36. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

37. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on long-term climate finance,<sup>19</sup> noting the importance of climate finance in addressing climate change.

38. We look forward to the full operationalization and initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund, including the expeditious implementation of its initial resource mobilization process, taking into account that the Fund will play a key role in channelling new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries and will catalyse climate finance, both public and private, at the international and national levels.

39. We urge developed country parties to increase technology, finance and capacity-building support to enable increased mitigation ambition and adaptation actions on the part of developing country parties.

40. We reaffirm the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society, and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and also reaffirm that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.

41. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris in December 2015, and for it to enter into effect and be implemented as from 2020.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>19</sup> FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1, decision 3/CP.19.

<sup>20</sup> See FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1, decision 1/CP.17.

42. We note the convening by the Secretary-General of the Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014, aimed at mobilizing actions and ambition in relation to climate change.

43. We will work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts<sup>21</sup> through comprehensive, inclusive and strategic approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries, including small island developing States, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

44. We call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To build resilience to the impacts of climate change and to improve their adaptive capacity through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations;

(b) To improve the baseline monitoring of island systems and the downscaling of climate model projections to enable better projections of the future impacts on small islands;

(c) To raise awareness and communicate climate change risks, including through public dialogue with local communities, to increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change;

(d) To address remaining gaps in capacity for gaining access to and managing climate finance.

45. We recognize that the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and the release into the environment of hydrofluorocarbons with a high potential for global warming. We support the gradual phasing down of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.

46. We recognize the importance of scaling up support for activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the context of the REDD-plus mechanism in small island developing States, including the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus.<sup>22</sup>

### **Sustainable energy**

47. We recognize that dependence on imported fossil fuels has been a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for small island developing States for many decades and that sustainable energy, including enhanced accessibility to modern energy services, energy efficiency and use of economically viable and environmentally sound technology, plays a critical role in enabling the sustainable development of small island developing States.

48. We highlight the efforts of small island developing States concerning sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in such areas as access to affordable modern energy services, renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies and low

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<sup>21</sup> See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1, decision 2/CP.19.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., decisions 9/CP.19–15/CP.19; see also FCCC/CP/2013/10 and Corr.1, para. 44.

carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many small island developing States to undertake the actions contained in annex I to the Declaration. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

49. We urge the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and other relevant stakeholders to continue to provide adequate support, including in the areas of capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the development and implementation of national, regional and interregional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States. We welcome the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which helps small island developing States by pooling knowledge and sharing best practices.

50. We strongly support actions:

(a) To develop a strategy and targeted measures to promote energy efficiency and foster sustainable energy systems based on all energy sources, in particular renewable energy sources, in small island developing States, such as wind, sustainable biomass, solar, hydroelectric, biofuel and geothermal energy;

(b) To facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms to increase capital flows for the implementation of sustainable energy projects in small island developing States on renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(c) To support investment in initiatives by and for small island developing States, in particular the “SIDS DOCK” indicative project pipeline of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects, as well as in the areas of capacity-building and human resources development and public education and awareness;

(d) To promote international collaboration to ensure the access of small island developing States to energy by, inter alia, strengthening their integration with regional and international energy markets and increasing the use of locally available sources of energy in the energy mix, joint infrastructure development projects and investment in production and storage capacities, in accordance with national legislation;

(e) To fulfil their bold and ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in small island developing States for the next decade, taking into account national circumstances, the diversification of energy systems and the provision of funds and technology on mutually agreed terms;

(f) To enhance international cooperation and cooperation among small island developing States for research and technological development and for the implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies for small island developing States, including cleaner fossil fuel technology and smart grid technology, through the provision of, inter alia, financing from a variety of sources, the exchange of best practices and access to efficient technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(g) To access existing mechanisms, or, in regions with no existing mechanism, to encourage the establishment of user-friendly, accurate and comprehensive regional data repositories as online databases on energy, and to

conduct technical studies and gather information on grid stability and management, including maximizing the integration of renewable energy and innovative storage mechanisms;

(h) To work on an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening innovative energy road maps in small island developing States, with detailed resource planning, which takes into account social, environmental and economic considerations, as well as access to energy for the poor and people in remote areas.

### **Disaster risk reduction**

51. We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and some of which have been exacerbated by climate change, which impede their progress towards sustainable development. We also recognize that disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States and that there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters.

52. In consideration of the special case of small island developing States and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, we are committed to supporting their efforts:

(a) To gain access to technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;

(b) To promote cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors;

(c) To strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

(d) To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action<sup>23</sup> and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;

(e) To mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development, as appropriate;

(f) To harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence;

(g) To establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies, where applicable;

(h) To increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

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<sup>23</sup> Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).



### Oceans and seas

53. We acknowledge that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, including that of small island developing States. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, the possible use of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in small island developing States.

54. Recognizing that small island developing States have large maritime areas and have shown notable leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources, we support their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and resources. We also support their efforts to conserve their valuable underwater cultural heritage.

55. We reaffirm that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>24</sup> provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

56. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States, and taking into account the sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, we note that small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.

57. We recognize that an integrated ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities is needed to optimize opportunities. It should be based on the best available science, give due regard to conservation efforts and precautionary approaches and ensure coherence and balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.

58. With this in mind, we strongly support action:

(a) To promote and support national, subregional and regional efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their resources by supporting research and the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management, including for fisheries management, and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for the exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources;

(b) To engage in national and regional efforts to sustainably develop the ocean resources of small island developing States and generate increasing returns for their peoples;

(c) To implement fully and effectively the regional seas programmes in which small island developing States participate;

(d) To address marine pollution by developing effective partnerships, including through the development and implementation of relevant arrangements,

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<sup>24</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

such as the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,<sup>25</sup> and, as appropriate, instruments on marine debris and on nutrient, wastewater and other marine pollution, and through the sharing and implementation of best practices;

(e) To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures, including from ocean acidification and invasive species, and by drawing on measures such as those identified in the Framework for Action 2013 of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

(f) To undertake marine scientific research and develop the associated technological capacity of small island developing States, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centres and the provision of technical assistance, for the delimitation of their maritime areas and the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;

(g) To enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through institutional capacity-building at the appropriate levels;

(h) To support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management and enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fisheries, and to enhance access to markets for the products of sustainable small-scale fisheries of small island developing States;

(i) To strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2001<sup>26</sup> and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

(j) For States that have not done so, to consider becoming parties to the 2001 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;<sup>27</sup>

(k) To promote the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit small island developing States that are adopted by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

(l) To enhance the capacity of small island developing States to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries-related industries, enabling them to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources and ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to small island developing States;

(m) To urge the cooperation of the international community in implementing shared responsibilities under regional fisheries management organizations and

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<sup>25</sup> A/51/116, annex II.

<sup>26</sup> A/C.2/56/7, annex.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2562, No. 45694.

arrangements to enable small island developing States to benefit from and sustainably manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks covered by those organizations and arrangements;

(n) To enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation to address the causes of ocean acidification and to further study and minimize its impacts, including through information-sharing, regional workshops, the integration of scientists from small island developing States into international research teams, steps to make marine ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of ocean acidification and the possible development of a strategy for all small island developing States on ocean acidification;

(o) To conserve by 2020 at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas in small island developing States, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment;

(p) To address concerns about the long-term effects of munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources.

#### **Food security and nutrition**

59. We recognize that small island developing States, primarily net food-importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of food imports. It is therefore important to support the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, the eradication of hunger and the provision of livelihoods while conserving, protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of land, soil, forests, water, plants and animals, biodiversity and ecosystems. We stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the small island developing States.

60. We also recognize the danger caused by an unhealthy diet and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption.

61. We recognize the call, in the outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, adopted in Bridgetown on 28 August 2013,<sup>28</sup> to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing those States, and we invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate this biennial forum.

62. We note the convening of the Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in November 2014, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which has important implications for small island developing States, and look forward to its outcome.

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<sup>28</sup> A/CONF.223/PC/2, annex.

63. In this regard, we are committed to working together to support the efforts of small island developing States:

- (a) To promote the further use of sustainable practices relating to agriculture, crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture to improve food and nutrition security while ensuring the sustainable management of the required water resources;
- (b) To promote open and efficient international and domestic markets to support economic development and optimize food security and nutrition;
- (c) To enhance international cooperation to maintain access to global food markets, particularly during periods of higher volatility in commodity markets;
- (d) To increase rural income and jobs, with a focus on the empowerment of smallholders and small-scale food producers, especially women;
- (e) To end malnutrition in all its forms, including by securing year-round access to sufficient, safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food;
- (f) To enhance the resilience of agriculture and fisheries to the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters;
- (g) To maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable food production systems through international technical cooperation.

#### **Water and sanitation**

64. We recognize that small island developing States face numerous challenges with respect to freshwater resources, including pollution, the overexploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, saline intrusion, drought and water scarcity, soil erosion, water and wastewater treatment and the lack of access to sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, changes in rainfall patterns related to climate change have regionally varying and potentially significant impacts on water supply.

65. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

- (a) To develop institutional and human capacities for the effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems, including supporting women's engagement in water management systems;
- (b) To provide and operate appropriate facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems, including the exploration of desalination technology where economically and environmentally feasible;
- (c) To facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse in the context of the sustainable and efficient use of water resources;
- (d) To improve water-use efficiency and work towards eliminating over-extraction, especially of groundwater, and to mitigate the effects of saltwater intrusion.

#### **Sustainable transportation**

66. We recognize that transportation and mobility are central to the sustainable development of small island developing States. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable and safe transportation achieves better integration of the

economy while respecting the environment. We also recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods in fostering full engagement in local, regional and global markets and the potential for sustainable transportation to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas of small island developing States.

67. In this regard, we are committed to continuing and enhancing support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To gain access to environmentally sound, safe, affordable and well-maintained transportation;

(b) To advance the safety of land, sea and air transportation;

(c) To develop viable national, regional and international transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies that take a life-cycle approach to the development and management of transport infrastructure;

(d) To increase energy efficiency in the transport sector.

#### **Sustainable consumption and production**

68. As promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development, we recall the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and its vision, and we recognize that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process. This should be done in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development, and in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.

69. In this regard, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns to advance sustainable consumption and production, with an emphasis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.

#### **Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste**

70. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. For small island developing States, as for all countries, environmentally sound waste management is also crucial for human health and environmental protection, and the small land area and remoteness of many small island developing States pose particular challenges for the sound disposal of waste.

71. In this regard, we acknowledge the following actions to improve the management of chemicals and waste:

(a) Enhancing technical cooperation programmes, including those under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous

Wastes and Their Disposal,<sup>29</sup> the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management of the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the London Convention and Protocol and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, to strengthen national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of waste, including chemical and hazardous waste, ship- and aircraft-generated waste and marine plastic litter, and further strengthening and expanding geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans;

(b) For States that have not done so, considering becoming parties to and ensuring an enabling environment for the implementation, including with technical and other appropriate support, of the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste and implementing, as appropriate, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

(c) Facilitating improved access to existing capacity-building programmes, such as those under the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization, which call for strengthened management of specific risks, including control programmes for chemical and other toxic and environmental events;

(d) Implementing reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and return approaches in accordance with national capacities and priorities, inter alia, through capacity-building and environmentally appropriate technologies.

#### **Health and non-communicable diseases**

72. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases, and when populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.

73. We recognize that the burden and threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain serious global concerns and constitute one of the major challenges for small island developing States in the twenty-first century. While prevention, treatment, care and education are critical, we call upon the international community to support the national actions of small island developing States in addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases.

74. We take note of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.<sup>30</sup>

75. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive, whole-government multisectoral policies and strategies for the prevention and management of diseases, including through the strengthening of health systems, the promotion of effective universal health coverage implementation, the distribution of medical and drug supplies, education and public awareness and incentivizing people to lead healthier lives through a healthy diet, good nutrition, sports and education;

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<sup>29</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

<sup>30</sup> Resolution 68/300.

(b) To develop specific national programmes and policies geared towards the strengthening of health systems for the achievement of universal coverage of health services and the distribution of medical and drug supplies, with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, key development partners and other stakeholders, at the invitation of small island developing States;

(c) To take urgent steps to establish, for the period from 2015 to 2025, 10-year targets and strategies to reverse the spread and severity of non-communicable diseases;

(d) To implement well-planned and value-added interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care and develop accountability mechanisms for monitoring non-communicable diseases;

(e) To enable cooperation among small island developing States on diseases by using existing international and regional forums to convene joint biennial meetings of ministers of health and other relevant sectors to respond in particular to non-communicable diseases;

(f) To achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected emerging and re-emerging tropical diseases, including chikungunya and dengue;

(g) To reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and improve the health of mothers, infants and children.

#### **Gender equality and women's empowerment**

76. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment and the full realization of human rights for women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and are a driver of economic growth in small island developing States. Women can be powerful agents of change.

77. In this regard, we support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls;

(b) To integrate a gender perspective in priority areas for sustainable development;

(c) To strengthen women's economic empowerment and ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work;

(d) To end all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) To continue to take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors through such policies and actions as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks;

(f) To guarantee equal access to good-quality education and health care;

(g) To ensure in small island developing States the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(h) To tackle the structural and socioeconomic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls, including those with disabilities, that hinder progress and development;

(i) To give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technologies.

### **Social development**

78. We recognize that social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring development progress by small island developing States both now and in the future. We therefore support efforts to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and to guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

79. We support small island developing States in their commitment to an approach to development that is focused on poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have equal access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, knowledge, information and know-how. That approach enables citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

### *Culture and sport*

80. We recognize that small island developing States possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion.

81. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and international cooperation in the cultural field in line with applicable international conventions, in particular those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(b) To leverage and build on the joint work of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(c) To develop and strengthen national and regional cultural activities and infrastructures, including through the network of World Heritage sites, which reinforce local capacities, promote awareness in small island developing States, enhance tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including local and indigenous knowledge, and involve local people for the benefit of present and future generations;

(d) To develop cultural and creative industries, including tourism, that capitalize on their rich heritage and have a role to play in sustainable and inclusive growth;

(e) To develop domestic mechanisms to conserve, promote, protect and preserve their natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge.



82. Recognizing the strong capacity of small island developing States in sport, we support the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development, social inclusion and peace, strengthen education, promote health and build life skills, particularly among youth.

*Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities*

83. We recognize the importance of supporting small island developing States in their ongoing efforts to ensure peaceful societies and safe communities, including through building responsive and accountable institutions and ensuring access to justice and respect for all human rights, taking into account their national priorities and legislations.

84. We recognize that the sustainable development of small island developing States can be negatively affected by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the breaking down of community support structures can lead to increasing numbers of young men and women becoming involved in violence and crime.

85. We support the efforts of small island developing States to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, promoting strong institutions and improving protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and forced labour in accordance with relevant national and international agreements and treaties.

86. We support the development of action plans in small island developing States to eliminate violence against women and girls, who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately affected by crime, violence and conflict, and to ensure that they are centrally involved in all relevant processes.

*Education*

87. We reaffirm that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and the importance of local, national, regional and international efforts in this regard.

88. We are committed, in this regard, to strongly supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To provide high-quality education and training for youth and girls with a focus on the most vulnerable, in particular persons with disabilities, including in creative, cultural and environment-related fields, so that all people have the necessary skills and can take advantage of employment opportunities to lead productive lives;

(b) To ensure that education contributes to further building peace and promoting social inclusion;

(c) To increase their investment in education, training and skills development for all, including vocational training, and to improve their access to formal and non-formal education, including to gain entrepreneurial skills, through both formal and non-formal means, such as the use of distance teaching and the development of training approaches appropriate for small island developing States.

## Biodiversity

89. We agree to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature.

90. We recognize that, overall, small island developing States have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that in many cases is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity. Noting that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(b) To export organic, natural, sustainably produced and locally grown products;

(c) To access financial and technical resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

91. We invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>31</sup> to consider ratifying and implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>32</sup> while acknowledging that having access to and sharing the benefits of genetic resources contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

### *Desertification, land degradation and drought*

92. We recognize that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought challenges will be critical for the achievement by small island developing States of food security and nutrition, their adaptation to climate change, the protection of their biodiversity and the development of resilience to natural disasters. We also strongly support the efforts of small island developing States in designing and implementing preparedness and resilience policies relating to desertification, land degradation and drought as a matter of priority and in catalysing financial resources from a range of public and private sources, as well as in promoting the sustainability of their limited soil resources.

93. We acknowledge the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa entitled “Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)”,<sup>33</sup> in which the Conference of the Parties established an intergovernmental

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<sup>31</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>32</sup> See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

<sup>33</sup> ICCD/COP(11)/23/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 8/COP.11.

working group to, inter alia, establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

#### *Forests*

94. Recognizing that forests are vital to livelihoods and ecosystems, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

- (a) To implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;<sup>34</sup>
- (b) To slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including by promoting trade in legally and sustainably harvested forest products;
- (c) To achieve appropriate and effective reforestation, restoration and afforestation;
- (d) To address obstacles and pursue opportunities to mobilize financing from all sources to support national sustainable forest management policies and improve the state of biological diversity by conserving and safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
- (e) To participate in the review of the international arrangement on forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to explore the full range of options on the future of the arrangement;
- (f) To strengthen their legal, institutional and human capacity for sustainable forest management on the basis of a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable use of forest resources.

#### **Invasive alien species**

95. Noting that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine the efforts of small island developing States to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

- (a) To enhance multisectoral collaboration at the national, regional and international levels, including through expanded support to existing structures, to effectively address invasive alien species;
- (b) To improve efforts to eradicate and control invasive alien species, including through the provision of support for research on and the development of new technologies by expanding collaboration and supporting existing regional and international structures;
- (c) To develop and strengthen their capacity to address invasive alien species issues, including prevention, as well as increasing public awareness in small island developing States about this issue.

#### **Means of implementation, including partnerships**

96. While acknowledging the primary responsibility of small island developing States for their own sustainable development, we recognize that the persistent development challenges of the small island developing States require enhanced

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<sup>34</sup> Resolution 62/98, annex.

global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally agreed goals.

#### *Partnerships*

97. We call for an increase in all forms of partnership with and for small island developing States.

98. We recognize that, given the vulnerabilities and the need to build the resilience of small island developing States, and keeping in mind the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development priorities and needs.

99. We also call for enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and especially cooperation among small island developing States. We reaffirm that North-South cooperation remains the core type of international cooperation and that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. We recognize that genuine and durable partnerships will play an important role in advancing sustainable development by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. We further recognize that partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare.

100. We reaffirm that small island developing States are equal partners and that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability and transparency and that political will is required to undertake and implement long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms, regardless of size and economic value, should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure the meaningful engagement of various actors (including local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector and international financial institutions) and should work to achieve the small island developing States' vision of self-reliance and to cooperate in the implementation of national policies that help to fulfil the commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the Samoa Pathway, the Millennium Development Goals and other international declarations and instruments.

101. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations, including through the use of existing intergovernmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States. The framework should ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of small island developing States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development and ensure the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. The recommendations should be presented to the General Assembly for consideration and action at its sixty-ninth session.

*Financing*

102. We recognize that financing from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, the development and transfer of reliable, affordable, modern technology on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building assistance and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of advancing sustainable development in small island developing States. As those States have unique and particular vulnerabilities that require dedicated attention, they will continue to make use of a wide range of available financing mechanisms to implement the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

103. We recognize that international financing plays an important role in increasing the capacity of small island developing States to mitigate and effectively respond to multiple crises by increasing the impact of existing funds and mobilizing, catalysing and directly providing financial resources from a variety of public and private sources, including international financial institutions, to support the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

104. We urge all countries to fulfil their commitments to small island developing States, including through the provision of financial resources, to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. In this regard, the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, is crucial.

105. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency, and in this regard we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. Furthermore, we will make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support over the medium term. We recognize the importance of the efforts of developing countries to strengthen leadership regarding their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country must be fully considered.

106. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the use of domestic policies and financing, with due consideration for their respective levels of indebtedness and national capacities;

(b) To gain access to international arrangements and modalities for the financing of development for developing countries, particularly small island developing States, including through capacity-building and a review of application procedures;

(c) To implement, with the provision of appropriate financial resources, in line with existing international commitments within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, climate change adaptation and mitigation projects;

(d) To reduce transfer costs related to remittances while pursuing the international targets and agreed outcomes of important international initiatives set by the United Nations system concerning remittances, given their importance for the economic growth of small island developing States.

#### *Trade*

107. Given the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, for example, small size, limited negotiating capacity and remoteness from markets, we recognize that efforts are needed to support their further integration regionally and between the regions and in world markets. With this in mind, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To encourage their successful engagement in trade and economic agreements, taking into consideration existing special and differential treatment provisions, as appropriate, and taking note of the work conducted to date under the work programme on small economies of the World Trade Organization;

(b) To obtain technical assistance through trade-related assistance mechanisms and other programmes to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including with respect to explaining trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements and formulating and administering coherent trade policies, with a view to improving trade competitiveness as well as development and growth prospects;

(c) To assess the implications and mitigate the impact of non-tariff barriers to their market access opportunities through, inter alia, appropriate technical assistance and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization;

(d) To develop and strengthen partnerships to enhance the participation of small island developing States in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply side constraints.

#### *Capacity-building*

108. We affirm that small island developing States require continued and enhanced investments in education and training programmes to develop human and institutional capacities so as to build the resilience of their societies and economies, while encouraging the use and retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within those States and ensuring accountability and transparency in all capacity-building efforts by all parties.

109. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To improve existing mechanisms and resources to provide coordinated and coherent United Nations system-wide capacity-building programmes for small island developing States through United Nations country teams, in collaboration with national agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations, to enhance national capacities and institutions, building on the lessons and successes of the Capacity 2015 initiative;

- (b) To strengthen their national institutions to complement capacity-building;
- (c) To ensure the inclusion of capacity-building and institution-strengthening, as appropriate, in all cooperation frameworks and partnerships and their integration in the priorities and work programmes of all United Nations agencies providing assistance to small island developing States in concert with other development efforts, within their existing mandates and resources;
- (d) To establish a dedicated intensive training programme for sustainable development for small island developing States in the University Consortium of Small Island States;
- (e) To strengthen technical assistance programmes in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and regional institutions in small island developing States;
- (f) To build national capacity, where appropriate, to utilize cost-benefit analysis for informed policymaking in the area of sustainable development, including models specific to small island developing States that evaluate the technical, financial, social, economic and environmental aspects related to the accession, ratification and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments;
- (g) To build national capacity to fulfil reporting requirements deriving from commitments made by small island developing States when signing international agreements and commitments;
- (h) To establish national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation, building on existing information and communications platforms, as appropriate;
- (i) To enhance regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States on education and training so as to identify and apply appropriate good practices as solutions to shared challenges;
- (j) To ensure that women are fully and equally able to benefit from capacity development and that institutions are inclusive and supportive of women at all levels, including at the senior leadership levels.

### *Technology*

110. We recognize that access by small island developing States to appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to achieving their sustainable development objectives and in fostering an environment that provides incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship and that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development.

111. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States to gain access, on mutually agreed terms, to appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies and know-how and to increase connectivity and the use of information and communications technology through improved infrastructure, training and national legislation, as well as public and private sector involvement.

*Data and statistics*

112. We reaffirm the role that data and statistics play in development planning in small island developing States and the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from those States, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, inter alia, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.

113. We recognize that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track successes in attaining the internationally agreed development goals.

114. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the availability and accessibility of their data and statistical systems, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, and enhance their management of complex data systems, including geospatial data platforms, by launching new partnership initiatives or scaling up existing initiatives;

(b) To utilize existing United Nations statistical standards and resources in the areas of social and environmental statistics;

(c) To improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables in a systemic and coordinated manner at the national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity-building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard.

115. Furthermore, we call upon the United Nations, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates:

(a) To make greater use of the national statistics and development indicators of small island developing States, where available;

(b) To support a sustainable development statistics and information programme for small island developing States;

(c) To elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States that better reflect their vulnerability and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience and to strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, the tracking of progress and the development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles.

*Institutional support for small island developing States*

116. We call upon the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities.



117. In this regard, we call upon the United Nations system to provide support:

(a) To ensure that United Nations entities take fully into account the issues of small island developing States and include support for those States and the development of their capacities in their programmes at the appropriate levels;

(b) To continue to enhance, through national and regional initiatives, the voice and participation of small island developing States in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of international financial institutions;

(c) To improve interregional and intraregional cooperation and collaboration among small island developing States, including, where required, through institutional mechanisms and capacity-building;

(d) To ensure that the issues of small island developing States are adequately addressed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices.

118. We call upon the Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council to continue to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to monitor regularly, together with their Governments, the progress of small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

119. We request that the Secretary-General conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and the respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States, and we invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, to determine the parameters of the review. We request the Secretary-General, building on previous reports, to provide to the Assembly at its seventieth session the findings of the review and his recommendations thereon in his regular report entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

120. We request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continues, pursuant to its support and advisory services mandate, its analysis and reporting on the situation of small island developing States, including in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its advocacy mandate, ensure the mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhance the coherence of the issues of those States in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, and continue to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by small island developing States.

#### **Priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda**

121. Recalling that the small island developing States have identified their priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in the outcome document of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as further refined in the present outcome document, we

recognize the need to give due consideration to those priorities in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

#### **Monitoring and accountability**

122. To ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States, we call upon the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions.

123. We recall that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices, will devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.

124. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing States;

(b) To request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue to maintain a partnerships platform focused on the small island developing States and to regularly convene the inter-agency consultative group to report on the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, with adequate and timely analysis based on relevant targets and indicators relevant to the small island developing States in order to ensure accountability at all levels.

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# General Assembly

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## Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 18 (b)

### **Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

## **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 2022**

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/77/443/Add.2, para. 14)]

### **77/163. Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>1</sup> the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,<sup>2</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>3</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>5</sup> the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>6</sup> the outcome document of the United Nations

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.



Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>7</sup> the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>8</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>9</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

*Recalling* the Paris Agreement,<sup>11</sup> and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>12</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling also* the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>13</sup>

*Recalling further* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,<sup>14</sup>

*Recognizing* the efforts of Caribbean States to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”<sup>15</sup> and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,<sup>16</sup> calling for further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 that matured in 2020, and renewing the commitment to take urgent action and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all the targets as soon as possible, without delay,

*Taking into account* all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions [54/225](#) of 22 December 1999, [55/203](#) of 20 December 2000, [57/261](#) of 20 December 2002, [59/230](#) of 22 December 2004, [61/197](#) of 20 December 2006, [63/214](#) of 19 December 2008, [65/155](#) of 20 December 2010, [67/205](#) of 21 December 2012, [69/216](#) of 19 December 2014, [71/224](#) of 21 December 2016, [73/229](#) of 20 December 2018 and [75/214](#) of 21 December 2020,

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>17</sup>

*Recalling also* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,<sup>18</sup> and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>19</sup> which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>11</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>13</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

<sup>14</sup> Resolution [S-22/2](#), annex.

<sup>15</sup> Resolution [71/312](#), annex.

<sup>16</sup> Resolution [76/296](#), annex.

<sup>17</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

*Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>20</sup> and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>21</sup> and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,<sup>22</sup>

*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,<sup>23</sup>

*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

*Recognizing also* that the Caribbean Sea is a critical asset, which inter alia provides a range of ecosystem services and socioeconomic benefits in the form of food security and nutrition, employment, foreign exchange, culture and recreation,

*Recognizing further* that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

*Deeply concerned* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its severe global economic disruptions are having a devastating impact on the sustainable development and humanitarian needs of Caribbean countries that are dependent on tourism, commodities, stable global supply chains and remittances, making the prospect of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more difficult,

*Noting* that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rising sea level, oceanic oscillation phenomena, such as the El Niño phenomenon, and the potential increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, including in launching the debt swap initiative and the Caribbean Resilience Fund, to support Caribbean economies to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change, and noting also the particular efforts to address and reduce debt burdens, including through the Caribbean Resilience Fund,

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., vol. 996, No. 14583.

<sup>23</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

*Noting with concern* the impact of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on the Caribbean Sea area, encouraging further efforts at all levels to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, and welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,<sup>24</sup>

*Recalling* the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

*Taking note* of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the safe transport of radioactive materials,

*Welcoming* the decision taken by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session to strengthen global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 5/7<sup>25</sup> and 5/8<sup>26</sup> of 2 March 2022,

*Mindful* of the diversity of and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources, and noting with deep concern the findings about cumulative human impacts on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions, as highlighted in the second *World Ocean Assessment* and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*,

*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote the integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

*Noting* the progress that has been made on regional ocean governance by the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project, and the opportunity to further advance

<sup>24</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

<sup>25</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.7](#).

<sup>26</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.8](#).

marine spatial planning through the commencement of the global PROCARIBE+ project,

*Welcoming* the continued efforts of the States members and associate members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

*Recalling* the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work, including its plan of action for the period 2022–2028, and its contribution to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea,

*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for regional and international action to enhance efforts at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to build resilience;

3. *Stresses* that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to support and invest in adaptation and action at all levels to build resilience through, inter alia, disaster risk reduction, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, the sustainable management of ecosystems and the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in this regard urges Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to COVID-19 recovery efforts;

4. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

5. *Reaffirms its support* for the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance their support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

6. *Welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer

of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

7. *Also welcomes* the convening of the sixth International Cooperation Conference of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Havana on 10 and 11 November 2022, which aims to boost cooperation and attract funding to address new strategies and the implementation of projects and initiatives in support of the sustainable development of the Greater Caribbean;

8. *Acknowledges* the need to scale up the efforts of the Caribbean Sea Commission for the delivery of its programme of work, in particular in promoting the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, alongside plans to advance new initiatives at the sixth International Cooperation Conference of the Association of Caribbean States, and invites the international community to support these next steps;

9. *Looks forward* to the convening of the ninth summit of the Association of Caribbean States, to be held in La Antigua Guatemala in May 2023, and the adoption of its plan of action for the period 2022–2028, which focuses on strategizing to reposition the Greater Caribbean for enhanced resilience;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

11. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

12. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session;

13. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to the relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

14. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto,<sup>27</sup> which entered into force in May 2011;

15. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

16. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1340, No. 22484.



of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

17. *Invites* the international community to actively support efforts of Caribbean countries to implement regional strategies and action plans on marine pollution and marine biodiversity to further promote the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

18. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an acute threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, and urges the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide assistance and support in addressing this issue in the region;

19. *Also notes with deep concern* the sargassum seaweed influx and its negative impact on the people, the territory and the economy of the Caribbean, as well as the deterioration of the coral reefs;

20. *Encourages* continued collaboration and resource mobilization by the international community and all other sources, including public and private, bilateral and multilateral, to support capacity-building mechanisms and strengthen sargassum seaweed management for the Caribbean;

21. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

22. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to actively support the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States for the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

23. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years, in particular the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

25. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

26. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc,

Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

27. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

28. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

29. *Encourages* the international community and the United Nations system, in line with their programming priorities, to support initiatives aimed at addressing mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in the wider Caribbean region included in the plan of action of the Association of Caribbean States for the period 2022–2028;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” of the item entitled “Sustainable development”, on the implementation of the present resolution, emphasizing the three dimensions of sustainable development, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such, without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations, unless otherwise agreed.

*53rd plenary meeting  
14 December 2022*



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**Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda item 18 (b)

**Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
on 30 December 2022***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/77/443/Add.2, para. 14)]***77/245. Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States***The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>1</sup> is a stand-alone, overarching framework setting out the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States that builds on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>2</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>3</sup> and recognizing that the Samoa Pathway is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>5</sup> and is in line with the

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>6</sup> the New Urban Agenda<sup>7</sup> and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming also* that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, renewing thus our solidarity with them, as they continue to face the combined challenges arising, in particular, from their geographical remoteness, the small scale of their economies, high costs and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and remaining particularly concerned that many small island developing States have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Acknowledging* the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the far-reaching and enduring consequences for poverty eradication, employment, growth and social welfare as a result of the unprecedented contraction of their economies, and noting with concern that the external debt stocks of small island developing States have increased by 70 percentage points since 2009, resulting in the average rate of external debt to gross domestic product in those States rising by 11 percentage points to 61.7 per cent in 2019, while the ability of those States to self-insure against exogenous shocks continues to deteriorate further, highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks,

*Recognizing with grave concern* that small island developing States saw their external debt position deteriorate further in 2021, reaching new record levels of 66.1 billion dollars and raising the ratio of debt service costs to export revenues from 37 per cent in 2019 to 41.1 per cent in 2021,

*Acknowledging* the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition,

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>8</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

*Taking note with concern* of the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C, Climate Change and Land* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

*Noting* the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources to small island developing States, owing to their unique characteristics, dependence on and particular exposure to the ocean and its biodiversity, and noting also the central role of the ocean in the culture, livelihoods and sustainable development of the peoples of small island developing States,

*Acknowledging* the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, in this regard reiterating the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”<sup>9</sup> and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,<sup>10</sup> adopted, respectively, at the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, acknowledging also the further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on its targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6, which matured in 2020,<sup>11</sup> and renewing the commitment to taking urgent action and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay,

*Noting with concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, recalling the convening of the summit on biodiversity on 30 September 2020 and the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by China from 11 to 15 October 2021, and looking forward to the second part, to be held in Canada from 7 to 9 December 2022, at which a post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted,

*Noting with concern also* the impact of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on small island developing States, encouraging further efforts at all levels to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, as well as welcoming the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,<sup>12</sup> to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Underscoring* the importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and noting that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for small island developing States and other developing countries,

*Recognizing* the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation, and paragraph 22 of

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 71/312, annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 76/296, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

the Samoa Pathway, which underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to address the major challenges facing small island developing States,

*Reaffirming* the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>13</sup>
2. *Recalls* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration,<sup>14</sup> and looks forward to the full and urgent implementation of the calls made in the political declaration;
3. *Reiterates* the call to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Barbados<sup>15</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalls the discussion during the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development on the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;
4. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes and the relevant work of the United Nations development system, and calls for the elaboration of information specific to small island developing States in a disaggregated manner in all major United Nations reports, where appropriate;
5. *Welcomes* resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics;
6. *Recalls with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizes the need for allocation of adequate resources commensurate with the mandates of these units, taking into account the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;
7. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek new solutions to the major challenges facing

<sup>13</sup> [A/77/218](#).

<sup>14</sup> Resolution 74/3.

<sup>15</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

8. *Calls for* immediate and substantial actions to facilitate the responses of small island developing States to recover from the crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and address the unprecedented health and economic crisis in these States, while preserving their sustainable development achievements and commitments, and reinforce their resilience to climate change in line with the Samoa Pathway and the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, notes with appreciation the recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the round-table process entitled “SIDS access to finance – identifying solutions for resilient COVID-19 recovery”, invites Member States to consider the statement and call to action from the second round-table dialogue on small island developing States and access to finance, held on 7 October 2021, and to join the Group of Friends of Small Island Developing States, and welcomes the commitments made by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in the communiqué of its high-level meeting of 2020, to improve policies and programmes to address the particular needs of small island developing States;

9. *Recognizes* that small island developing States face significant challenges in accessing sufficient affordable financing for sustainable development, including concessional financing, and in this regard encourages providers of development finance to consider the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States in order to strengthen development cooperation;

10. *Recalls* the Secretary-General’s recommendations and guiding principles on the development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its finalization and potential uses, also recalls the establishment of a representative high-level panel of experts co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, welcomes the progress of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States on its work and on its interim report, and in this regard:

(a) Supports the proposed definitions for structural vulnerability and resilience and the two-level structure outlined in the report as the basis for the Panel’s continued work, guiding the selection of appropriate indicators to inform vulnerability across all sectors of sustainable development, the proposed governance structure and the development of the country vulnerability-resilience profiles;

(b) Notes the request of the Panel for an extension of time to complete its work, and decides to request the Panel to finalize its work on the index, in full consultation with all Member States and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the terms of reference for the High-level Panel, and to convene additional consultations, as necessary, to address these and other relevant issues, taking into account the written submissions submitted to date, and to submit its final report no later than 30 June 2023;

11. *Reiterates* that small island developing States continue to face loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, resulting in unprecedented social, economic and environmental challenges that push debt to unsustainable levels, and in this regard calls for urgent and ambitious global action, in line with the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change<sup>16</sup> and the Paris Agreement to avert, minimize and address the threat and impact of climate change on small island developing States;

12. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's findings regarding the limited capacity of small island developing States, including upper-middle-income and high-income small island developing States, to gain access to disaster-related funding owing to differing eligibility criteria and the quantum of resources required to gain access thereto, as well as the need for an enabling environment at all levels, invites international financial institutions to revise eligibility criteria and modalities that prevent access to resources, taking into consideration multidimensional vulnerabilities, and urges the international community to enhance the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for disaster risk reduction and other preventive measures as part of a comprehensive risk management framework that matches the scale of existing and future disaster risks, while taking into account the barriers that have prevented the effective mobilization of critical financing to small island developing States, especially for implementation of associated plans and strategies devised by small island developing States;

13. *Reaffirms* that official development assistance, both technical and financial, can foster resilient societies and economies, and calls upon the international community to mobilize additional development finance from all sources and at all levels to support small island developing States' efforts;

14. *Recognizes with concern* the transition challenges encountered by small island developing States that have graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status, remains mindful that graduation must not disrupt a country's development progress, and stresses the need for the development and implementation of a viable multiannual transition strategy to facilitate each small island developing State's graduation, with the support of the international community where appropriate, to mitigate against, inter alia, the possible loss of concessionary financing, to reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt and to ensure macrofinancial stability;

15. *Reiterates* the call to relevant institutions to learn from one another's efforts to address the diverse circumstances of countries, to better manage transitions and graduation, recognizes that official development assistance should continue to focus on countries most in need, and takes note of a willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exceptions, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments, to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness;

16. *Reiterates* the call to Member States to invite the World Bank to consider reviving the high-level working group among the development banks and its partners to review the rules governing access for small island developing States to concessional finance;

17. *Underlines* the need to take targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, to reduce inequalities and to promote the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

18. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States is not possible without private investment, including long-term foreign investment, which can be facilitated and attracted through the creation of an enabling environment and capacity support for small island developing States;

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.



19. *Recalls* the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria by the Committee for Development Policy in 2020, and looks forward to the next review process;

20. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Small Island Developing States Partnerships Awards to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, consistent with the Samoa Pathway and in line with the Small Island Developing States Partnerships criteria and norms;

21. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

22. *Also reaffirms* its call to convene in 2024, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and decides that the international meeting will be convened in the second or third quarter of 2024 for a duration of no more than five days;

23. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States and the forthcoming fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

25. *Reiterates* its call for the Secretary-General to continue to use his convening powers to continue to work on devising solutions for small island developing States in relation to debt vulnerability in the immediate term and debt sustainability in the long term, with due regard to multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to consider requesting that a wide variety of stakeholders, including the United Nations system, international financial institutions, development banks and multilateral development partners, convene a high-level meeting during the Conference to discuss the mobilization of resources for small island developing States;

26. *Decides* that the Conference should:

(a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes, stressing the importance of continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and the previous programmes of action for small island developing States, and seek a renewed political commitment by all

countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, inter alia, through the mobilization of targeted resources, including domestic and private investment, and assistance for small island developing States;

(b) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community, and further identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

27. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community and the private sector, which have played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

28. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States to achieving sustainable development;

29. *Decides* to convene in 2023, prior to the commencement of the seventy-eighth session, a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

30. *Also decides* that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

31. *Further decides* that the Conference will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document;

32. *Decides* to establish a preparatory committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will hold a one-day organizational session in the first half of 2023 and two sessions, of no more than five days each, in the first half of 2024, and also decides that the Bureau of the preparatory committee shall consist of two members from each regional group, as well as ex officio members from the host country and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, and that the committee shall elect two Co-Chairs from among the nominated Bureau members, one from a developed State and one from a developing State;

33. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the 10-member Bureau of the preparatory committee no later than 31 January 2023, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the preparatory committee,

and invites the Bureau to convene further meetings of the preparatory committee on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to conclude discussions on the draft outcome document of the Conference;

34. *Decides* that the preparatory committee, during its organizational session in the first half of 2023, will adopt decisions and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly on the additional modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

35. *Agrees* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

37. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences;

38. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21,<sup>17</sup> to participate as observers in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee;

39. *Calls for* the participation of associate members<sup>18</sup> of the regional commissions in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2014;

40. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Conference at the earliest possible date;

41. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II. The major groups identified in Agenda 21 are women, children and youth, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers.

<sup>18</sup> American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

terminal expenses, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

42. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and other major groups, particularly from small island developing States, in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself, as appropriate, and invites voluntary contributions to support their participation;

43. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate and track the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals, and other internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard recalls the adoption and finalization of the monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, further encourages small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, reiterates the call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist with strengthening their statistical offices and to provide enhanced support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis, including high-quality and disaggregated data, welcomes the launch of the Data Platform for the Small Island Developing States by the United Nations Development Programme at the Wadadli Action Platform convened in Saint John's on 8 and 9 August 2022, and further calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to update the General Assembly on this matter;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-eighth session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the national, regional and interregional preparatory meetings, as well as the preparatory process for convening the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index;

45. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

*56th (resumed) plenary meeting  
30 December 2022*



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
6 April 2022

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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 23 (a)

### Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 April 2022

[without reference to a Main Committee (*A/76/L.47* and *A/76/L.47/Add.1*)]

### 76/258. Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/251](#) of 28 February 2022, by which it decided, on an exceptional basis, to hold the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in two parts as follows: the first part at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 17 March 2022, and the second part in Doha, from 5 to 9 March 2023,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/232](#) A of 19 December 2019, [74/232](#) B of 11 August 2020, [75/227](#) of 21 December 2020 and [76/216](#) of 17 December 2021, and its decision [76/551](#) of 20 January 2022,

1. *Endorses* the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 17 March 2022, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution, and calls upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action;

2. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha, to be held at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in its resolutions [73/242](#), [74/232](#) A and B, [75/227](#) and [76/216](#), and for providing all the necessary support, urges all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the Conference, and looks forward to its successful and ambitious outcome.

*66th plenary meeting  
1 April 2022*



## Annex

### Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

#### Introduction: from Istanbul priorities to Doha commitments

1. Forty years ago, in September 1981, the international community met in Paris for the First United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and launched the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries with an ambitious objective of transforming the economies of the least developed countries towards self-sustained development and enabling them to provide at least internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport, communication, social infrastructure, including drinking water and sanitation, housing and education, as well as job opportunities for their citizens, in particular the rural and urban poor.

2. Now, we are meeting for the fifth time, in the most unprecedented of circumstances, in which a health and socioeconomic crisis has shaken everyone, individually and collectively. The world is plagued by growing poverty, hunger and malnutrition, inequality, human rights violations, digital divides, vaccine divides, complex humanitarian emergencies and armed conflict, insecurity, pandemics, environmental degradation, climate change and disasters. Of greatest concern is that one in three people in least developed countries still live in extreme poverty, and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused this figure to rise further. We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

3. We call for greater action and extraordinary measures by all countries and strengthened international and multilateral cooperation to address challenges affecting least developed countries on the basis of the concept of human security<sup>1</sup> and to ensure that no one is left behind.

4. We have entered the decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the most critical time of our generation, to realize our collective ambitions of sustainable and inclusive recovery and increased resilience from COVID-19 in a sustainable and equitable manner and leaving no one behind. We reaffirm our commitment to enhancing our efforts from COVID-19 to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement. We commit to taking more tangible steps to support the least developed countries in this endeavour and to reach the furthest behind first, recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on those in vulnerable situations.

5. The least developed countries saw their economies significantly shrink in 2020, amid a severe global recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The external debt burden and debt service obligations are rising significantly, gains made over the past decade in poverty reduction were wiped out, there were increases in food insecurity and malnutrition, and already fragile health systems saw resources shifted away from urgent health and life-saving treatments. Disrupted education is likely to have a lasting negative impact on countries' recovery and development. Global inequalities are being exposed and growing as a result of the pandemic, increasing the risk of conflict and fragility, with women and girls, young people, persons with disabilities,

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly, noting the decision, in its resolution [66/290](#), to continue its discussion on human security in accordance with the provisions of that resolution, stresses that actions arising from the present document should be in line with the provisions of paragraph 3 of resolution [66/290](#).

older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, refugees, displaced persons and migrants disproportionately affected. While many advanced economies deployed massive fiscal stimuli to cushion the pandemic's impact and have applied adjusted health measures, the policy response in least developed countries was much more limited owing to weak fiscal conditions, major supply chain and logistic challenges, weak resilience capacity and static global support. For them, adequate access to vaccines remains many months, if not years, away, casting a shadow over their urgent and much-needed growth and development prospects.

6. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens not only to reverse some progress made during the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, (Istanbul Programme of Action) but also to exacerbate persistent challenges in least developed countries. Global inequality has risen as a result of the pandemic, and the risk of conflict and fragility has increased, in particular in relation to democratic governance and the rule of law. Owing to pre-existing conditions, namely, chronic underinvestment in health systems, poorly functioning food systems, weak social protection systems, lack of institutional capacity, high levels of vulnerability to external shocks and employment that is predominantly in the informal sector, the pandemic has caused serious negative effects on all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action that will be felt for years to come. This might have a negative impact on the graduation process of some countries.

7. We recognize that the least developed countries, currently consisting of 46 nations and comprising some 14 per cent of the global population, are some of the poorest and most vulnerable in the world, accounting for only 1.3 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), 1.4 per cent of global foreign direct investment (FDI) and just under 1 per cent of global merchandising exports.

8. We recognize that, notwithstanding many challenges and constraints, the least developed countries represent an enormous human, cultural and natural resource potential for sustainable economic growth, welfare, peace, prosperity, and food and energy security. Millions of young people and a growing working-age population could become development leaders and the drivers of transformative change. It is imperative that action for the least developed countries by all stakeholders be aimed at addressing the challenges in a sustainable manner and leveraging the opportunities offered by new and emerging issues to catalyse the greatest multiplier effects on growth and development. Therefore, a strengthened and inclusive global partnership that effectively addresses the special needs of the least developed countries will contribute to the causes of people, planet, peace, prosperity, partnership and sustainable development for all.

9. We also recognize that many least developed countries continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints, including narrow production and export bases, stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth, small size, isolation and remoteness from major markets, widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to quality and inclusive education and lifelong learning opportunities, and underdeveloped human capital. Almost half of the least developed countries are landlocked or small island countries, with a weak land and natural resource base. These long-standing challenges are compounded by new and emerging challenges, brought about by climate change, increased incidences of disasters and public health emergencies, conflicts, fluctuating commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural transformation that prioritizes economic diversification and addresses institutional and capacity constraints, the least developed countries will remain vulnerable to various socioeconomic, health and environmental shocks.

10. We recognize that progress has been made with regard to the Istanbul Programme of Action in areas such as access to electricity, access to mobile telephony

and mobile Internet, increased enrolment of girls and boys in primary education, increased access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, and reforms that have made it easier to start and register businesses.

11. We also recognize that progress has been made towards graduation from the least developed country category. However, there remain significant challenges in meeting the graduation criteria and in ensuring sustainable and irreversible graduation. The Istanbul Programme of Action set the goal of half of the least developed countries, of which there were 24 at the time, meeting graduation criteria by 2020. To date, 4 have graduated and 16 are at different stages of graduation.

12. We note with concern that progress fell short of the goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, including achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth at a 7 per cent rate; poverty eradication, achieving structural transformation; doubling the share of trade, building productive capacity; securing full employment and decent work for all, reducing the number of children, in particular girls, out of school in primary and secondary education, which remains at least double the world average; manufacturing and trade gains, which were minimal and concentrated in only a handful of countries; tax-to-GDP ratios that increased very slowly; and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

13. We note with concern that progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the least developed countries has been uneven and is not on pace to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The number of people living in extreme poverty remained at approximately 32 per cent, and those suffering from hunger is on the rise, in particular among those in vulnerable situations. There is evidence of losses in jobs and incomes in least developed countries. Unemployment, in particular of young people, is rampant. The inequalities between least developed countries and the rest of the world, as well as among least developed countries, are rising. Infant and maternal mortality is exorbitantly high. Access to energy and broadband connectivity is moving at a slower pace. Structural transformation is not taking hold. Infrastructure investment and equitable access to infrastructure services are falling far behind actual needs. Productive capacity and export competitiveness are weak. Climate change is occurring much faster than anticipated, as evidenced by, inter alia, disproportionately high levels of economic losses, damage to critical infrastructure, disruption of basic services in the least developed countries, devastating impacts on oceans and seas, loss of vulnerable ecosystems, land degradation, the retreat of mountain glaciers and the continued rise in global temperatures, thereby threatening the lives of many people, in particular the poorest and people in vulnerable situations. Biodiversity loss, deforestation, water stress and global pollution from chemicals and waste remain major global challenges, while desertification, land degradation and coastal erosion continue to increase.

14. The Doha Programme of Action for the decade 2022–2031 is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners grounded in the overarching goals of achieving rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, strengthening labour markets by promoting the transition from informal to formal employment, enabling graduation from the least developed country category, facilitating access to sustainable and innovative financing, addressing inequalities, within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation, mainstreaming tech driven-entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up and ambitious means of implementation



and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

15. We reaffirm that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges and recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and call upon development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders to support least developed countries in its implementation. We also call upon in this regard the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda in the least developed countries.

16. We underscore that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in least developed countries rests with the least developed countries themselves. Least developed countries should identify their own national priorities and formulate and execute coherent economic and development policies and strategies. Development partners commit to providing concrete and substantial support to these efforts, in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, through a renewed and strengthened global partnership.

17. The Doha Programme of Action will be guided by the principles of shared responsibility, ownership and leadership of the least developed countries; an integrated and comprehensive approach; resilience-building and risk reduction; genuine and reinvigorated partnerships; result orientation; peace, security, development and human rights; respect for cultural diversity, inclusion and equity; and voice and representation and a balanced role of State and market considerations as reflected in the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Doha Programme of Action represents the enhanced commitments of the least developed countries, which have the ownership of and primary responsibility for their own development, and their development partners to a renewed and strengthened global partnership.

18. This partnership also includes the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, other multilateral institutions and regional development banks, within their relevant mandates and international obligations.

19. Guided by the spirit of solidarity with least developed countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide support for the effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

20. The private sector, civil society and foundations will be encouraged to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in their relevant areas of competence in line with the national priorities of least developed countries and in collaboration with relevant national government institutions.

21. We also underscore that good governance and the rule of law, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are crucial to the development process of the least developed countries. These efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through a renewed and strengthened global partnership.

22. We reaffirm that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development for all.

23. We recognize that investment in the care economy is needed to spur sustainable economies, restore and create jobs, recognize, reduce and redistribute women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and close the gender gap in labour force participation.

24. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Ebola outbreaks, the financial crisis and climate change have demonstrated that we live in a highly globalized and interconnected world, where a crisis or a virus in a small part of a country can spread to the entire world in a short span of time and have devastating impacts globally. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches that consider interdependencies among the health of humans, animals and plants and their shared environment. Looking beyond crises and bearing in mind the core principles of the 2030 Agenda, it is our shared responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind and to reach the furthest behind first.

25. We will undertake action to leverage the opportunities offered by the 226 million young people in least developed countries who are real agents of change for structural transformation, through productive capacity development in agricultural, manufacturing, cultural and creative industries and services sectors, including tourism; building and maintaining quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to improve the movement of goods and services, promoting life-cycle approaches; expanding energy access and broadband connectivity; tapping into emerging technologies; mainstreaming technology-driven entrepreneurship and developing innovative digital ecosystems; delivering digital services and applications; harnessing the demographic dividend that will yield economic and health gains that come with ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education; and lifelong learning for all, including persons with disabilities, while combating all forms of discrimination.

26. We are committed to building stronger, multifaceted and resilient systems in the least developed countries. With the support of the international community, least developed countries need to design systems, including infrastructure in transportation and communications, energy and information and communications technology (ICT), supply chains, economic, financial, public health and food systems, and universal social protection, that are resilient, sustainable, comprehensive, shock-responsive, gender-sensitive and risk-informed. Such action has the potential to make the national economic system stronger and more resilient against any future shocks and ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation from the least developed country category and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

27. We affirm that the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders at all levels – local, national and international – in solutions that are context-appropriate, respond to the needs and rights of populations, in particular those furthest behind, and tap into the full range of existing knowledge and experience. It is, in fact, encouraging that national and local governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders have engaged with the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Paris Agreement and are developing innovative approaches and practices. International financial institutions and several central and national development banks have started to better reflect the Goals as a whole in their strategies and policies.

28. We note with concern that the international support measures that have been put in place are not sufficient to contribute to addressing the full range of needs that exist in the least developed countries, including the new and emerging ones. We urge the international community to fulfil its existing commitments and push beyond “business as usual” to agree on innovative and effective support measures for the least

developed countries that contribute to closing their funding gaps in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. We reaffirm our commitment to a comprehensive, results-oriented, enhanced, quantifiable, forward-looking, coherent, renewed and strengthened global partnership for least developed countries based on the principles of leaving no one behind that is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We also reaffirm our commitments to supporting the least developed countries through, inter alia, fulfilling all internationally agreed goals and targets related to respective official development assistance (ODA) commitments, market access, debt relief, when appropriate, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, technical assistance and capacity-building. These commitments must be met and action must be taken beyond existing commitments to bring about transformational change in least developed countries. The United Nations system, including its specialized agencies, including the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other relevant institutions, to provide finance, technical support, assistance and policy advice to all priority areas for the least developed countries, and this support will be improved, including through additional concessional finance and the coordination between agencies and departments, using approaches such as the integrated national financing frameworks.

30. We affirm that Governments play a very important role in articulating and implementing the policies and programmes that will support a sustainable future that leaves no one behind. National parliaments will have a great role to play in enacting legislation and allocating funds that serve all in order to leave no one behind, as well as holding Governments to account for the commitments that they have made.

31. The Doha Programme of Action will have six key focus areas for action, as follows:

(a) Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind;

(b) Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity;

(d) Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration;

(e) Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development;

(f) Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation.

#### **I. Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind**

32. We recognize that people, especially the large youth and working-age population in least developed countries, are critical assets for their development. It is estimated that, between 2020 and 2030, the population in the least developed countries will increase by 256 million, to 1.3 billion people.

33. We are concerned that poverty remains a key challenge for least developed countries. Even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was estimated that

nearly 30 per cent of the population in least developed countries would remain in extreme poverty by 2030. Upward trends in extreme poverty and gender inequality in least developed countries since the COVID-19 outbreak suggest compounding impacts of the crisis caused by the pandemic.

34. In addition to having a low income, people living in poverty in least developed countries experience higher mortality rates and food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, limited or no access to quality inclusive education and health-care services, and a lack of access to opportunities to gain income through decent employment. Poor people in the least developed countries live in underserved areas with poor infrastructure and limited access to water and sanitation and have limited access to social protection. We respect and value the diversity of situations and conditions of women and girls and recognize that some women face specific barriers to their empowerment. We also stress that, while all women and girls have the same human rights, women and girls in different contexts have specific needs and priorities, requiring appropriate responses.

35. We reaffirm our commitment to diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inclusion, and the identity, safety and dignity of all people, and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogenous and multicultural societies.

36. We are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. We are further guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties. We emphasize the importance of fundamental freedoms for all. We are also informed by other instruments such as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and core international human rights instruments. We recognize that good governance at all levels, strong institutions, democracy, the rule of law, transparency and accountability, and affording individuals access to the health-care services and education, knowledge and skills needed for productive capacity and full participation in decision-making processes are crucial to achieving sustainable development. Least developed countries still face challenges in ensuring universal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education, social protection and essential health-care services, and their vulnerabilities and limited capacities exacerbate the impact of external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, natural hazards and the adverse impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

37. We aim to eradicate poverty, including extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in all its forms and dimensions, to advance human development in an inclusive and sustainable way for all in the least developed countries by the end of the decade and to provide equal opportunities for all, with special attention given to the poorest and most vulnerable, including women and girls in vulnerable situation, young people and children, older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as those affected by violence and conflict, in order to leave no one behind.

#### **Universal social protection systems**

38. Limited social protection exacerbates vulnerabilities across all dimensions of human development in least developed countries and constitutes a major obstacle to economic, environmental and social development. Notwithstanding the commitment made by many least developed countries and their development partners, a lack of capacities and limited resources in least developed countries are major constraints to providing comprehensive and sustainable social protection.

*Targets*

- Achieve a sustainable increase in coverage of nationally appropriate comprehensive and universal social protection systems and measures, including floors, for all in the least developed countries.
- End hunger and malnutrition and ensure access by all people in least developed countries, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe and healthy diets through sustainable year-round food systems.
- Provide food and emergency assistance everywhere to those in need.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

39. We will reinforce social protection policies and programmes that are risk-informed, take into account the specific needs of women and girls, age and persons with disabilities, and contribute to strengthening the ability of communities and people, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, to withstand poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being, throughout their life course. We call upon Governments to extend social protection for all, including workers in the informal economy. We will also build social protection systems that are resilient and can respond to shocks, including by integrating disaster risk reduction into social protection strategies.

40. We recognize that significant additional domestic public resources, supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we commit to providing fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all. We commit to supporting predictable finance, including ODA, domestic resource mobilization, trade and private sector financing and tax and public transfer reforms, where appropriate.

41. We commit to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector at the national, subnational and local levels in delivering inclusive social protection programmes, including by expanding the digital infrastructure and ICT capabilities of the public administration, by establishing national social registry systems, by enhancing and digitalizing cash transfers and payment of entitlements, and by increasing transparency and access to information.

42. We recognize the need for dealing with severe food insecurities. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of stockholding for the least developed countries on a regional and subregional basis, or alternative means, such as cash transfers, taking into account possible economic implications and risks, and to report thereon to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-seventh session.

**Achieving universal access to quality education, skills and lifelong learning**

43. Notwithstanding progress in increasing enrolment rates for primary education, 16.2 per cent of children of primary school age were out of school in least developed countries in 2019 and almost half of children out of school in the world are in least developed countries, with girls, children with disabilities and other children in vulnerable situations disproportionately represented.

44. Enrolment and completion rates for tertiary education remain low, which has far-reaching implications for the structural transformation agenda of the least developed countries. Most of them depend on aid for their education budgets. At the secondary and tertiary levels, gender disparities and disparities for the poorest and most vulnerable exist. Lack of economic opportunities and poor basic facilities and infrastructure, such as the lack of access to digital technologies, the Internet and

electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, especially for girls, and public transport, as well as insufficient trained teachers and the limited or lack of adequate learning and teaching materials, seriously affect the quality of education in least developed countries.

45. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schooling is a generational catastrophe. School closures resulting from the pandemic have had devastating consequences for children's learning and well-being. Millions of children and young people are falling behind in their learning, making it even more difficult to successfully make the transition from education and training to employment, which will have long-term impacts on human capital, including reduced earnings and career advancement. More than a year and a half into the COVID-19 crisis, almost all learners in least developed countries have faced full school closures, which has also deprived them of childcare, school meals and other vital school health services. In particular, the crisis poses a series of mental health challenges to young people and may aggravate the state of those with pre-existing mental health conditions. These children, especially girls, who are unable to gain access to quality remote learning and who face economic hardship are at an increased risk of never returning to school and even of being subject to harmful practices, including child labour and child, early and forced marriage. The situation of young girls is particularly alarming because they are more vulnerable and exposed to the risks of exploitation, including the risk of early pregnancies. In addition, the pandemic threatens to undo many of the global gains of the last two decades in girls' education and employment.

#### *Targets*

- Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes and inclusive, sustainable economic growth.
- By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable, inclusive and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
- Achieve universal access to inclusive and quality education at all levels, eliminate the gender gap in enrolment and completion, and increase the quality of education for all in least developed countries.
- Substantially expand globally the number of places and scholarships for students and trainees from least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, education technology, business management and economics, and encourage the full uptake of scholarships available to students of least developed countries.
- Substantially increase access to the Internet, electricity, school meals that support healthy diets, water and other vital school health services, and adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities in all primary, secondary and tertiary schools in least developed countries by 2030.
- Undertake feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms for least developed countries.
- Expand professional training and quality apprenticeships and promote other active labour market policies to facilitate a smooth school-to-work transition for young people, especially young women.
- Urge the international community to join forces to have children return to school in the wake of COVID-19 and ensure 12 years of safe and quality education for all children, specifically girls.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

46. We commit to supporting least developed countries and providing financing to strengthen national inclusive and efficient education systems in order to harness the demographic dividend, for both remote and on-site classes, including through better curricula that respond to the dynamic nature of education, training and the job market; local contexts, including country-specific challenges and local cultural contents; teacher development, retention and deployment, especially in rural areas; and improvements in basic infrastructure and providing adequate supplies that suit the learning requirements of all children.

47. We also commit to supporting least developed countries in increasing enrolment and decreasing dropout rates through measures such as abolishing school fees, providing school feeding programmes that support healthy diets, water and sanitation facilities, vaccinations, various school health services and improving the quality of education and especially foundational learning. We commit to supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in and through education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education, including vocational and technical education for people in vulnerable situations.

48. We will strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet, substantially increase access to electricity, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all in all academic institutions in least developed countries, and provide digital literacy skills, technology-enabled lifelong and dynamic learning systems and human capital development by 2030.

49. We further commit to supporting the least developed countries in gaining access to and effectively utilizing digital tools and technologies to improve education outcomes for all learners, including through educational radio and television programmes, to meet learning and educational requirements according to the local context. We also commit to distributing equipment and teaching materials, such as radios and textbooks, both in physical and digital formats, including to the poorest and vulnerable households, especially for girls. We further commit to supporting large-scale national efforts to utilize all forms of distance learning technology, including low-cost technology, in support of remote learning and online education, including through digital technologies, for better resilience in national equitable and efficient education systems, as well as training to develop the digital skills of students and educators.

50. We recognize the importance of education for sustainable development and global citizenship education in helping countries to achieve a sustainable and inclusive recovery after COVID-19, and will strengthen education for sustainable development and global citizenship education in the period 2021–2030.

51. We will encourage interaction, collaboration and exchange programmes of students and the sharing of scientific studies and research papers among academic institutions of least developed countries and the rest of the world. We commit to substantially expanding globally the number of scholarships for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training, and we will encourage higher education institutes to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from least developed countries, especially for young women, in particular in the fields of science, technology, engineering, medicine and business administration, in developed countries and other developing countries and encourage the full uptake of scholarships offered by higher education institutes to least developed countries.

52. We commit to undertaking feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and post-graduate university-level science, technology, engineering and

mathematics education in least developed countries and recently graduated countries with a view to, inter alia, providing policy support to promote distance education and open learning for graduate and post-graduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ensuring a 50/50 gender balance at all levels while guaranteeing special access for the poorest and people in vulnerable situations; creating a virtual network of educational institutions within and beyond least developed countries; assisting in course design and curriculum development; and leading to scale and sustainability of the education system, taking into account all pre-existing initiatives developed by the relevant partners in a comprehensive manner. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit a report, outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources, to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration.

**Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and young people to address inequality and drive economic growth**

53. Women and girls continue to face barriers, such as a lack of access to inclusive and quality education and digital skills, in particular at the secondary and tertiary levels, to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and to social protection, decent work and opportunities in the labour market, and are subject to harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and other harmful practices. Women were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including in terms of loss of jobs, income and livelihoods, while continuing to bear the disproportionate brunt of unpaid care and domestic work. Investment and a focus on the rights of women and girls are required to provide and enable access to inclusive and quality education, social protection, online health services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, property and capital and productive assets throughout the life course; to ensure financial inclusion through expanding access to financial services such as credit; and to eliminate harmful practices and all forms of violence. Together, these actions will help to address barriers to women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in all spheres of society, including in decision-making and leadership, in order to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls and further enhance the contribution of women to economic and social development. The disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the social and economic situations of women and girls, along with gender-based violence, also pose challenges to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the least developed countries.

*Targets*

- Achieve women's full, equal and meaningful participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Support women's equal opportunities in education, training, business, entrepreneurship and decent jobs.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.



- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Support the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors.
- Achieve the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls online.
- Achieve equitable access to social protection for women and girls.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

54. We commit to establishing policies and programmes to improve an enabling environment for the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, expand women's access to inclusive and quality education and training, online services, health services, entrepreneurship, job opportunities and economic opportunities, expand access to gender-sensitive social protection and ensure women's full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, cultural, economic and public life, including through institutional reforms and policies that address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. We commit to supporting mechanisms that provide access to finance for women for both personal and business use.

55. We commit to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation, as well as all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, through the development, implementation and enforcement of appropriate policies and laws.

56. We commit to establishing inclusive and gender-responsive support programmes to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict least developed countries, and to assist victims and survivors of sexual violence, including through long-term health-care services, psychosocial support, access to justice and safe accommodation and shelter and inclusion in peacebuilding initiatives.

57. We commit to providing access to family planning to all women in least developed countries and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

**Population and health**

58. We note that the least developed countries have the fastest growing populations in the world, rising at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent, and that many are projected to see their population double between 2019 and 2050. Appropriate policies and measures need to be put in place to leverage the potential offered by the demographic dividend.

59. We will work together to support the acceleration of the demographic transition, where relevant, and champion the importance of increased investment in human development, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, and public services, infrastructure and job creation that keep pace with population growth and create healthier, better educated citizens and drive economic growth.

60. Least developed countries face major challenges in improving the health of their population owing to a lack of adequate health-care facilities and services, investment and a trained health workforce, as well as adequate commodities and supplies and weaknesses across other systems, in particular food systems. Newborn, child and maternal mortality remains unacceptably high in least developed countries. Prevailing

high rates of undernutrition continue to be a major cause of disease, child mortality and lifelong losses in productivity and income, with many people unable to afford or gain access to nutritious food and healthy diets. They also experience an increase in obesity and non-communicable diseases, as well as other preventable or treatable conditions.

#### *Targets*

- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and nutrition, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, diagnostics, vaccines and other health technologies for all.
- Reduce maternal deaths and eliminate preventable maternal, infant and child deaths and improve access to affordable quality health-care services.
- Ensure birth registration to all newborns in least developed countries and provide a national legal identity to them.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

61. We commit to providing financial and technical support and investment to promote and upscaling education and training, in tandem with job creation, for the burgeoning population of young people in least developed countries to leverage the opportunities presented by the demographic dividend and to enable children and young people, especially girls and young women, to develop their personalities, talents and abilities and to participate fully in society. Least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, will upgrade science and technology-based education systems that lead to dynamic and emerging critical thinking skills of the young generation and ensure their successful integration into national and international labour markets, ensuring full and productive employment and decent work for all.

62. We commit to providing the financial and technical support necessary for least developed countries to strengthen integrated and inclusive national health systems and the design, implementation of and access to modern health infrastructure and systems, which is accessible to all members of the population, develop adequately skilled professionals and medical facilities and supplies, strengthen health-care information systems and the use of disaggregated data for decision-making, improve essential integrated health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and provide incentives to retain national health workers in order to achieve universal health coverage in least developed countries, with a special emphasis on primary health care as a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for all in least developed countries.

63. We also commit to supporting the strengthening of food systems in least developed countries, including by using holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches, so that they deliver better outcomes for people's health and nutrition, alongside ensuring the health of animals, plants and ecosystems, while also ensuring that least developed countries are more resilient and sustainable in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss. This includes making safe, sufficient and nutritious food more available, affordable and accessible and creating more enabling food environments. We welcome the Committee on World Food Security voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

64. We reaffirm the decision of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights on the extension of the transition period under article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement for least developed country members for certain

obligations with respect to pharmaceutical products until 1 January 2033 and the decision of the Council on the transition period under article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement until 1 July 2034, and the commitment of World Trade Organization (WTO) developed country members to providing incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories for the purposes of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least developed countries, as obligated under article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement. We also encourage the voluntary transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms with a view to enabling least developed countries to produce life-saving medicines, including COVID-19 vaccines.

65. We commit to providing the support necessary to least developed countries to assist in the birth registration for all newborns in least developed countries and the provision of a national legal identity to them.

### **Investing in young people**

66. In 2020, 66.9 per cent of the population was under 30 years of age. By 2030, one in five of the projected number of young people in the world will have been born in the least developed countries. In 2019, more than one in five young people around the world were not in employment, education or training, which is almost unchanged since 2005. Given that young women were already twice as likely to be unemployed and not in education or training as young men, and because women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the COVID-19 crisis is likely to worsen not in employment, education or training gender gaps among young people.

#### *Targets*

- Ensure, by 2030, that all young people achieve literacy and numeracy.
- Ensure access to lifelong digital learning opportunities for skills development.
- Increase youth participation and inclusion in decision-making processes.
- Increase access to safe and healthy working conditions, decent work opportunities, knowledge and skills for all young people in the least developed countries.
- Promote entrepreneurial training to young people, including through financial and technical assistance.

### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

67. We commit to strengthening youth participation mechanisms to facilitate young people's meaningful engagement, especially young women and young people in vulnerable situations, in policies and activities that enhance sustainable development efforts. We will increase youth involvement in national sustainable development coordination councils, working with national youth councils, expanding the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme and other opportunities for youth representation, as appropriate, and ensuring that young people contribute to the implementation and review of the Doha Programme of Action.

68. We commit to adopting an inclusive, results-based and employment-generating approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities. We commit to ensuring fluency, including digital fluency, lifelong learning opportunities, appropriate training, including vocational training, creativity, entrepreneurship skills and the best opportunities for full employment and decent work for all people, especially young women and men in the least developed countries. We commit to supporting the least developed countries in reforming and strengthening equitable and efficient education systems to allow for the development

of skills and talents that are consistent with the demands of the national and global job markets, which include preparing young people for frontier technologies and the new digital age. We also commit to strengthening national legislative frameworks, in accordance with international labour standards.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

69. The proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water services was 64.6 per cent in 2018, with 84.1 per cent who had access in urban areas, compared with 55 per cent in rural areas. Access to basic sanitation services remains very low in the least developed countries, at an average 34 per cent of the population, in particular in rural areas.

#### *Target*

- Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all in least developed countries by 2030.

### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

70. We reaffirm the importance of regional and international cooperation for safe drinking water and sanitation and commit to expanding international cooperation and capacity-building support, for accelerating access to inclusive, affordable and climate-resilient water and sanitation services and improving institutional capacity and increasing access to technology to develop water and sanitation infrastructure in the least developed countries and water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including the development and implementation of integrated water resources management interventions and wastewater treatment solutions. We also commit to providing access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities for all, with particular attention given to women and girls in terms of the provision of safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene services, which include menstrual hygiene, and services for schools, health facilities and other public spaces.

### **Urbanization and shelter**

71. On average, almost 60 per cent of the urban population in least developed countries live in slums, where conditions carry especially high risks, owing to overcrowding, limited access to water and sanitation, insufficient waste management, inadequate rainwater drainage systems, poor health-care systems and a lack of other basic services. Financing sustainable urbanization remains a challenge in least developed countries. Sustainable funding at the municipal level through additional resources is key to supporting the investment needs of growing cities in least developed countries.

#### *Targets*

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport system for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport.

### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

72. We reaffirm our commitment to providing financial and technical support to least developed countries in strengthening government housing agencies, including at

the local level, and ensuring improved access to land, in accordance with national legislation; affordable housing and basic services; upgraded slums; and sustainable transport and communication systems for all. In this regard, we further reaffirm the need to take account of the special needs of least developed countries devastated by natural and human-made hazards and conflict.

73. We commit to supporting least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable, culturally sensitive and resilient housing utilizing local materials and in increasing affordable housing, including by leveraging public-private partnerships and sharing good practices among least developed countries.

### **Migration and mobility**

74. We recognize that migrants make positive contributions to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit and destination, and to the response and recovery to the crisis caused by COVID-19. We duly acknowledge that migrants face significant barriers to safe and secure movement and livelihoods, which in turn expose them to additional risks and vulnerabilities.

#### *Targets*

- Facilitate the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
- Enhance the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- Invest in the skills development of migrants and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualification and competences.
- Ensure inclusive access to basic social (education, nutrition, health care) and protection services, in particular for migrants in vulnerable situations, in line with national policies and legislation and international obligations.

### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

75. We recommit to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving the full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and to supporting countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances. In this regard, we recognize the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit and destination, and in the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We note national policy measures and good practices to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, and also note the decision to convene the first official meeting of the International Migration Review Forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, in 2022.

76. We commit to promoting inclusive access to basic social and protection services, in particular for migrants and refugee children and young people, in line with national policies and legislation and international obligations. We intend to coordinate and cooperate at all levels, as appropriate, to provide vital services, especially equal access to education, which is a human right and is critical to equipping them with the necessary life-saving and -enhancing knowledge and skills.

77. We encourage investment in innovative solutions that facilitate the mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers at all skill

levels and promote demand-driven skills development in order to optimize the employability of migrants in formal labour markets in countries of destination and in countries of origin upon return, and to ensure decent work in labour migration.

78. We encourage the taking of appropriate steps to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of migrants in the development of local solutions and opportunities, as well as efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration and to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls, in particular migrant women employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work, to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants.

79. We invite the international community and all relevant stakeholders, without prejudice to ongoing support, to cooperate and mobilize resources and expertise, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and countries of origin of refugees, including least developed countries, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees and displaced persons, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality for humanitarian action.

80. We commit to designing and implementing policies and measures supporting the outward and inward mobility of artists and cultural professionals from and to least developed countries, where no suitable pathway exists, including South-South mobility, as a key enabler for vibrant and dynamic cultural and creative industries.

#### **Good and effective governance at all levels**

81. Many least developed countries have made progress in governance in the past decade. However, more needs to be done. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. Three in four least developed countries are in situations affected by conflict and post-conflict situations. Conflict-affected least developed countries require context-specific approaches to address poverty, security and governance in an integrated manner. In 2018, 33 million forcibly displaced people originated from least developed countries, which is a growing problem, negatively affecting the governance situation in their countries of origin. The average e-government development index developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the delivery of public services in least developed countries increased from 0.23 in 2010 to 0.34 in 2020 but remains below the world average of 0.6.

82. We recognize the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law, increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation, protecting and promoting human rights, and reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of Governments of least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development.

83. We reaffirm the importance of the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in Article 2.1 of the Charter of the United Nations. Broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of least developed countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance is related to target 10.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

84. We reaffirm our continued support for the strengthened and effective participation of least developed countries in the global decision-making processes in the economic, social, and environmental fields.

*Targets*

- Strengthen good governance and the rule of law at all levels.
- Provide continued support for the strengthened and effective voice and participation of least developed countries in relevant international forums.
- Step up the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows.
- Build up efficient public administration institutions.
- Strengthen justice institutions and the rule of law.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

85. We commit to strengthening good governance, democratic processes and the rule of law by ensuring transparent and accountable governance, equal access to justice and independent judicial institutions, based on the respect for human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of those experiencing poverty, marginalization or vulnerability, especially women and girls. We also commit to increased democratic participation, enhancing institutional capacity at all levels and strengthening civil society. We will also strengthen efforts to fight corruption, bribery and money-laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by strengthening anti-corruption and other laws and regulations and their effective enforcement.

86. We commit to supporting least developed countries in the establishment of e-government services, and digital government solutions, services and applications to facilitate access to public sector offices and services, while providing for an encompassing protection of personal data, and disseminate key information about laws, regulations and government activities to citizens.

87. We commit to ensuring that the least developed countries are well represented in the decision-making and governance structures of international organizations, as appropriate. We also commit to providing continued support for the strengthened and effective voice and participation of least developed countries in international dialogue and action on development, as well as in decision- and rule-making and standard- and norm-setting processes in all areas affecting their development, and in relevant international forums.

88. We commit to promoting policy coherence and coordination of international financial, trade and development institutions, processes and mechanisms, taking into account the diverse and special development needs and challenges of least developed countries.

**Building and sustaining peace for sustainable development**

89. A total of 24 of 46 least developed countries had active conflicts in 2019. The link between peace, security, stability and sustainable development are emphasized in the 2030 Agenda. Peace, security, development, human rights and humanitarian efforts are complementary and need to reinforce one another. Greater cooperation, coherence, coordination and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace are fundamental to most efficiently and effectively addressing needs and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. We recognize the positive role that sustainable development can play in mitigating drivers of conflict, disaster risks, humanitarian crises and complex emergencies, and recognize that a comprehensive whole-of-system response, including promoting respect for cultural diversity, contributes to preventing violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, while the significance of culture in the lives of communities makes its continuity essential for recovery and resilience in

the wake of disasters. In addition, supporting and building partnerships with and between conflict-affected least developed countries, through sustained and predictable resources, remains critical for achieving peaceful and inclusive societies.

#### *Targets*

- Build durable peace and ensure stability, security and sustainable, inclusive and resilient development in least developed countries.
- Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence.
- Strengthen multilateral dialogue and cooperation to prevent conflicts and ensure peaceful solutions to existing conflicts.
- Promote increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

90. We commit to ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels and stages of decision-making, and in all areas related to peace and security, including peace processes and mediation efforts, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and relief and recovery, and to recognizing women's leadership therein, noting that women's participation in peace negotiations is likely to increase the durability and quality of peace and that mainstreaming women's meaningful participation and leadership into conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding is essential.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

91. We must redouble our efforts to resolve and or prevent conflict and commit to strengthening support for least developed countries affected by fragility and conflict in order to address root causes of conflict, country-specific needs and situations, including broad-based, inclusive and rapid socioeconomic development, with a special focus on rebuilding better national institutions and capacity, rebuilding critical infrastructure and generating productive employment and decent work for all.

92. We commit to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), cultural diversity and pluralism, and public access to information on the effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. We will ensure that women effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

93. We commit to increasing the predictability of aid and making more effective use of global and country-level funds for peacebuilding and State-building to achieve sustainable development. We also encourage bilateral donors and multilateral institutions to scale up access to instruments supporting investment in fragile contexts. We shall work on providing humanitarian aid in coordination with a long-term sustainable framework, contributing to sustainable development and productive investment and therefore contributing to building and consolidating peace.

## **II. Leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**

94. We acknowledge the critical importance that science, technology and innovation, including inclusive and enabling innovation ecosystems, environmentally



sound technologies and ICT can have in the pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They can also play a key role in accelerating the pace of economic diversification and transformation, and in improving productivity and competitiveness, in a way that maximizes benefits for people, planet and prosperity and enables the full participation of least developed countries in the global economy. We underscore the urgent need to accelerate investment in the development and scaling of innovation and technology solutions for the most pressing problems that least developed countries face across economic, social and environmental fields that support their digital transition and strengthen efforts to bridge digital divides, including between rural and urban and between women and men, and build an open, free and secure digital world. We call for strengthened international cooperation to support least developed countries in strengthening science, technology and innovation, including by providing financial contributions for investment in ICT infrastructure. We also urge the strengthening of digital literacy and skills, as part of efforts to bridge digital and knowledge divides, as a prerequisite for inclusive participation in the digital economy. We also acknowledge the potential of the fourth industrial revolution to raise global income levels and improve the quality of life for populations around the world, while at the same time presenting the risk of accelerating inequality within and between societies should gains be inequitably distributed.

95. We express concern that, advances in science, technology and innovation notwithstanding, significant gaps remain in science, technology and innovation deployment between least developed countries and the rest of the world. We are also concerned that there are serious gaps, especially in access to and capacities to adopt technologies by least developed countries. They continue to face substantial structural challenges in building human and institutional capacities in the field of digital innovation.

96. During the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action over the period 2011–2020, least developed countries faced significant and persistent lags in major indicators related to science, technology and innovation. According to the Global Innovation Index rankings of 2020, 9 of the 21 least developed country economies improved their rankings, while 11 of the least developed countries covered in the Index went down the rankings. The ratio of research and development expenditure in least developed countries as a share of GDP was 0.6 per cent or less between 2011 and 2017, compared with some 2 per cent of developed countries' much larger GDP. According to the data compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organization, from 2010 to 2018, the number of patent applications filed by residents of least developed countries doubled, from 835 to 1,634. However, as a share of patents globally, the figure is almost zero. The least developed countries published only 11 journal articles for every 1 million people in 2018.

### **Key action areas**

#### **Access to modern technologies for sustainable development and building human capital, infrastructure and institutions to reap the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution**

97. We express concern that least developed countries with limited infrastructure, human and institutional capacities and Internet access are unable to participate in and benefit from modern technologies, including financial technologies, and the ICT revolution. During the period of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, Internet access in least developed countries increased to 19 per cent in 2019 from approximately 5 per cent in 2011. This progress notwithstanding, there are growing digital divides both within and among countries, including gender digital

divides and rural-urban divides. These divides result from low Internet and broadband coverage, especially in rural and remote areas, the costs of using the Internet and the lack of locally relevant content and of relevant digital skills in least developed countries. Approximately 800 million people in least developed countries do not have access to the Internet and have no possibility of participating in economic, political, social or cultural activities online. Without an expansion of national digital infrastructure, the risk of least developed countries being locked into the low-equilibrium trap is likely to be accentuated.

98. Least developed countries often lack sufficient technical resources, organizational infrastructure and expertise to reap the benefits of digital growth or to address related challenges. They lack effective cybersecurity strategies or best practices, incident response functions, cybersecurity education or training for cybersecurity professionals, and related research and development activities.

#### *Targets*

- Substantially increase investment from all sources in research and development, as well as human and institutional capacity-building, for least developed countries within an international enabling environment.
- Increase investment for adequate digital infrastructure to support sustainable and inclusive digital development, including for e-learning, e-governance and e-commerce.
- Promote the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, including digital and environmentally sound technologies, to least developed countries.
- Promote the development of effective, balanced, inclusive and enabling ecosystems for innovation and creativity in least developed countries.
- Each least developed country will establish and strengthen a national science institute to promote local innovations, research, design and development, including in emerging technologies.
- Move away from low value-added natural resources and low-technology products to higher value-added manufactures and higher-technology products.
- Build human capital through skills development, including digital skills and literacy, and expand professional competencies.
- Mitigate negative impacts of emerging, new and disruptive technologies.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

99. We commit to supporting least developed countries in formulating comprehensive national regulatory frameworks, quality, reliable sustainable and resilient physical infrastructure and inclusive digital ecosystems, and formulating effective policies on science, technology and innovation, trade, investment, industry, employment and education that accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, reduce all types of inequalities and build resilience against shocks.

100. We commit to providing universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries, addressing the challenges associated with affordability in Internet access to ensure that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, and promoting an enabling environment for digital development, access and productive usage for least developed countries through international support, as well as transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulations and the promotion of competitive markets so that operators compete for low-use customers

through a variety of Internet plans that cater to different income levels and improve rural coverage through universal service funds.

101. We commit to identifying underserved communities and supporting least developed countries in integrating a strategic approach to inclusive and sustainable models of last-mile connectivity and national broadband plans in order to promote digital access for the poor, excluded and those in vulnerable situations, including women and girls. We commit to helping least developed countries to build their digital innovation capacity in order to navigate future technological changes and to ensure sustainable capacity and leverage the workforce, promote access to technological knowledge, and nurture the power of competitive industries.

102. We commit to supporting least developed countries in building capacity and a framework to scale up the development, deployment and sustainable utilization of emerging technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and incorporate them into agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors.

103. We commit to strengthening the science-policy interface and expanding least developed countries' knowledge and understanding of and access to new technology by building stronger partnerships with academies of science, universities, labs, innovation incubators and private sector entities at the forefront of this technological change, including those located in developed countries. We underline the need to consider the current and potential impacts of new and emerging technologies on the environment, the labour market, livelihoods and society.

104. We commit to enhancing least developed countries' cybersecurity capabilities to mitigate cyberthreats and ensure enhanced protection of their national critical infrastructure, including critical ICT infrastructure, thereby increasing cyberresilience and making the cyber ecosystem more secure, including for women and children, so that it can serve national priorities and maximize socioeconomic benefits. We underline that the human rights that people have offline must also be protected online.

105. We commit to enhancing least developed countries' cybersecurity awareness to better protect all people, including those in vulnerable situations, such as children, young people, older persons, women and persons with disabilities. We also commit to supporting least developed countries in developing their cybersecurity capacity development programmes, including primary, secondary and tertiary education and professional training on technical and managerial skills in industry, with the inclusion of women and young people in the cybersecurity field.

106. We commit to providing the financial and technical support necessary to least developed countries to establish and strengthen national and regional science institutes in order to increase their capacity for research and development in science, technology and innovations and promote the adaptation and application of modern technologies for domestic uses. We also commit to promoting local innovation capabilities of least developed countries for inclusive and sustainable economic development by providing enhanced technical support and assistance to enable stakeholders in the least developed countries to leverage intellectual property successfully for growth, competitiveness and development, and bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge. We commit to addressing gender inequality by enhancing the participation and leadership of women and girls in the design, development and deployment of science, technology and innovation activities.

107. We commit to supporting least developed countries in moving away from low value-added natural resources and low-technology products to higher value-added and higher technology products and more effective integration into global value

chains, to build productive capacities, diversify their export matrix and gain a greater share in the emerging digital economy.

108. We call upon Member States and the United Nations development system and encourage other stakeholders to facilitate improved levels of participation of scientists and engineers from least developed countries in international collaborative research, science, technology and innovation projects, to strengthen their support for the various science, technology and innovation partnerships with least developed countries in primary, secondary and higher education, vocational education and continuing education, and to promote business opportunities for the private sector in science, technology and innovation infrastructure.

### **Science, technology, and innovation for development and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against emerging challenges**

109. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of strong data and science systems in addressing major threats. We acknowledge that science, technology and innovation offer an opportunity for least developed countries to recover sustainably and inclusively from the pandemic, reduce risks and strengthen resilience to future systemic shocks and crises and emerging challenges. The pandemic has underscored the pressing need for least developed countries to elevate the application of science, technology, innovation and digital solutions at both policy and operational levels.

#### *Targets*

- Support the efforts of least developed countries to significantly improve their science, technology and innovation infrastructure and innovation capacities by 2031.
- Ensure universal and affordable access to and meaningful use of the Internet by all in the least developed countries by 2030.
- Facilitate the expansion of broadband connectivity in least developed countries to bridge the digital divide.
- Encourage investment in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that facilitate access to the Internet and digital services.
- Promote productive capacity and competitiveness in the least developed countries through technology-driven entrepreneurship.
- Develop competitive digital innovation ecosystems in least developed countries that are resilient to future pandemics and fit for purpose.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

110. We commit to bridging the science, technology and innovation divide and providing financial and technical support and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to least developed countries, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, to help to ensure that all least developed countries can engage effectively in sustainable and resilient development that will also protect the economies, systems and populations, in particular the poor and those in vulnerable situations.

111. We will strive to increase investment in education, including digital literacy, skills and e-learning, and to improve education and training, including lifelong learning endeavours in least developed countries, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to close digital divides, including rural-urban, young people-older persons and gender digital divides. We will enhance collaboration in

research, data and knowledge-sharing to cope with the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen resilience. We will provide enhanced support to the relevant stakeholders in least developed countries in increasing their knowledge and understanding of intellectual property, know-how and technology transfer.

112. We will provide enhanced funding for developing innovative solutions relevant to the local context and in response to specific problems in least developed countries, aimed at benefiting those in vulnerable situations, leaving no one behind, including in the areas of agriculture and food production, renewable energy and development, infrastructure development, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and climate resilience.

113. We support the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a focal point for least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation. We support the Technology Bank in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries for structural transformation and productive capacity development. We invite Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness. We also decide to strengthen collaboration among Governments, the private sector and academia to advance science, technology and innovation research and development, build inclusive digital economies and bridge the digital divide, including by facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

114. We express our appreciation to the host country, Turkey, for the full support given to the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries since its establishment in June 2018.

#### **Promoting private sector engagement, digitalization and broadband connectivity**

115. We aim to achieve sufficient levels of digital skills and literacy to ensure digital inclusion and enable digital development that supports both basic infrastructure development and human capital accumulation. We take note of the Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation and acknowledge its vision of a more inclusive, equitable and safe digital future for all.

#### *Targets*

- By 2030, all people in least developed countries should have safe, affordable and meaningful digital connectivity.
- By 2025, broadband Internet user penetration should reach 35 per cent in least developed countries for both men and women.
- By 2031, double broadband Internet user penetration in least developed countries to reach 70 per cent mark for both men and women.
- Increase financing from all sources to least developed countries to support the development of domestic digital, data, and artificial intelligence infrastructure.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

116. We commit to enhancing multi-stakeholder support to strengthen digital capacity-building for least developed countries to fully harness open, accessible and secure digital technologies, while encouraging Governments in particular to develop robust and effective regulatory frameworks and policies, including to promote

cybersecurity, accessible digital infrastructure, products and services, and digital capacity-building.

117. We commit to promoting partnerships with the private sector to leverage in full their capacity for innovation and encourage greater investment in science, technology and innovation for development, including sustainable network infrastructure and practical digital capacity-building initiatives in least developed countries. We encourage and support the private sector, in particular major technology companies, to work closely with public, educational, research-focused and development agencies to facilitate technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, leverage research and innovation that meets least developed countries' needs and build the necessary capacities and technical competencies of least developed countries.

118. We call upon development partners to enhance their support for least developed countries in building their broadband infrastructure, connectivity, access and use of digital technologies, incentivizing investors to invest in broadband infrastructure in least developed countries to meet their investment gaps, including through leveraging existing investment guarantee arrangements, such as the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and supporting capacity-building programmes for least developed countries to gain access to existing facilities.

119. We recognize the untapped potential of least developed countries' creative industries to create full and productive employment and decent work, support entrepreneurship and innovation, encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, promote social inclusion and eradicate poverty. We commit to protecting and promoting the status of the artists and cultural professionals through policies and measures, and encourage artists' inclusion in the digital ecosystem, including through appropriate intellectual property frameworks.

### **III. Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity**

120. The initiation of a sustained process of structural transformation remains a critical challenge for least developed countries. Their economies are largely undiversified, highly dependent on commodities and external assistance and at the bottom of regional and global value chains. High-productivity manufacturing and services make a miniscule contribution to GDP in least developed countries. Country-specific industrial policy is therefore necessary. While the agriculture sector employs more than half the population, it is characterized by subsistence practices, with low levels of value addition per worker, and inadequate access to both national, regional and global markets.

121. The services sector contributes directly to structural transformation. However, it contributes less than half of GDP in many least developed countries, the bulk of tertiary employment is concentrated in less knowledge-intensive services and participation in the global export of commercial services is negligible. We underline the importance of country-specific policies supported by an international enabling environment to promote, establish and enhance a domestic services sector.

122. For least developed countries to fully utilize their potential, we commit to promoting the achievement of inclusive and sustainable structural transformation capable of increasing productivity and growth, reducing their disaster risk, including exposure and vulnerabilities to existing and future external shocks. We will create decent full employment and decent jobs, eradicate poverty and ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

**Key action areas****Productive capacity-building**

123. Many least developed countries' economies feature limited productive capacities, which constrain their ability to produce efficiently and effectively, to diversify their economies and to create sustainable and productive employment. This challenge translates into binding supply constraints and, ultimately, into weak export and economic potential and limited productive employment generation and social development prospects. To build and enhance productive capacities at the country level, each least developed country, with the support of development partners, is encouraged to undertake national productive capacities gap assessments to analyse the key constraints in building productive capacities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Targets*

- Generate quality employment opportunities for all and increase labour productivity by 50 per cent by 2031, with particular attention given to the integration of women, young people and those in vulnerable situations.
- Substantially increase economic and export diversification with a view to reaching the level of other developing countries in export concentration by 2030.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, double industry's share of employment and GDP in least developed countries.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

124. We commit to promoting and supporting the formulation of national strategies aimed at increasing decent employment, diversification, economic transformation, value addition, efficiency and competitiveness in the manufacturing, agriculture and services sectors, as well as life-cycle approaches, with a cross-cutting focus on sustainability, and call for enhancing financial and technical support and policy space from all sources to facilitate the implementation of these strategies.

125. Least developed countries commit to creating a conducive policy environment for industrial diversification and value addition, including strengthening efforts to accelerate capital accumulation, building institutional and human capacities and knowledge development. We support improved data collection to better understand productivity levels and trends and better inform policies to drive productivity shifts.

126. We encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship and the use of modern, sustainable, cost-effective and locally adapted technologies and practices, with an emphasis on the manufacturing, agriculture and services sectors, including tourism, information and communications and finance, and call for the sharing of scientific knowledge and innovative technologies on mutually agreed terms.

127. We note the call for enhancing support towards establishing or upgrading quality assurances and standards of products and services in least developed countries to meet international standards.

128. We call upon Member States to increase financial and technical support to least developed countries in promoting family farming and the development of small, medium and large agribusinesses and industries with sustainable value addition along the agricultural value chain. We commit to implementing science- and evidence-based and data-driven agricultural practices that increase resilience and sustainable productivity, help to maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to

climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, improve food security and reduce malnutrition in all its forms. We decide to improve access to agricultural research and sustainable innovation and practices, including agroecological and other innovative approaches and sustainable technologies, to support adaptation and, where possible, mitigation.

129. We commit to promoting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including those run and owned by women entrepreneurs, by supporting full and equal access to financial services and products, strengthening the legal framework, especially for micro-enterprises, supporting them to enter into national, regional and global value chains, supporting them for digitalization and tapping the potential of e-commerce for enhanced competitiveness in the global digital economy. We intend to devise a rural agro-commodity-based value chain upgrade through affordable finance, with the participation of private enterprises, and thereby unleash entrepreneurship at the farm level.

130. We will promote increased market opportunities and full and equal access to financial services and products for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from least developed countries in order to create sustainable growth and decent jobs, in particular for women and young people through their beneficial integration into national, regional and global value chains. Structural transformation of least developed countries requires a conducive business ecosystem with strong and well-equipped business support organizations and business-friendly policies, regulatory frameworks and export strategies to facilitate the access of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to markets. We will support and empower micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs in least developed countries with a view to bringing about inclusive growth and prosperity.

131. We reaffirm the importance of human capacity as a critical factor in the utilization of other productive capacities and call for increasing responsible public and private investment, including through international cooperation, in human capacity development and skills development in order to increase productive capacities and the number of young people and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for full and productive employment and decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

### **Infrastructure development**

132. Least developed countries continue to face huge quality infrastructure gaps, in particular regarding access to energy, transport and ICT, and lack the capacity to maintain existing infrastructure and address the gaps in full. The Group of 20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment promote enhanced efforts and support towards quality infrastructure development consistent with international standards, including through improved coordination between public and private investment, which is fundamental to close the infrastructure gap.

#### **(a) Transport**

133. Notwithstanding the efforts made, least developed countries continue to face inefficient and unreliable physical transport infrastructure owing to high costs, a lack of investment, poor maintenance, and a lack of institutional capacity and stable policy and regulatory environments. The establishment of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems, including rail transport, road transport, seaports, and air transport, and transport facilitation are critical for least developed countries to reduce transport costs, facilitate trade, link to regional and international markets and enhance competitiveness.



*Target*

- Significantly expand, upgrade and maintain and gain access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport infrastructure and national and cross-boundary connectivity and ensure that all forms of transport infrastructure are maintained through closing the missing links and strengthening institutional capacities to manage transport services.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

134. We commit to developing and implementing comprehensive national and local policies for safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport infrastructure development and maintenance, encompassing all modes of transportation. We intend to ensure sustainable, climate-resilient transport infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of disasters, climate change and rising sea levels and intend to increase electrification and access to public transport. In this regard, we will be mobilizing domestic and international resources and share experiences on transport infrastructure development and financing, thereby building institutional capacities and strengthening transport services.

135. We call upon development partners, international organizations, regional development banks and the private sector, through public-private partnerships and direct investment, to provide financial and technical support to the efforts of least developed countries in transport infrastructure development and maintenance. In this regard, we stress the importance of developing the policies and regulatory frameworks necessary and strengthening enabling environments to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development, including enhancing technical assistance and capacity-building. We also intend to leverage new and innovative financing sources and new funding mechanisms, including blended finance and green bonds.

**(b) Energy**

136. Notwithstanding the importance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy to achieve structural transformation, least developed countries face challenges at three levels, namely, the generation, transmission and utilization of energy. In addition, they lack the capacity to mobilize the large amounts of financing required to invest in major power generation projects. Only some 53 per cent of the population in least developed countries has access to energy, with rates of access in rural areas of approximately only 10 per cent in some countries. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy access, from health services to the use of ICT. Resources deployed for COVID-19 responses and immediate health priorities have further constrained already limited fiscal capacity and increased the risk of energy insecurity in these countries.

137. The least developed countries committed to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in the context of resources being available to do so. The pathway to net zero emissions requires a substantial increase in the share of renewable energy and in clean energy technologies in all three main end-use categories: electricity, transport and heating/cooling. The immense potential of the renewable energy sector in least developed countries notwithstanding, these countries rarely benefit from larger financing schemes to the same extent as more prosperous developing countries. We are concerned that 15 least developed countries are among the top 20 access-deficit countries in the world and that, in 2019, the least developed countries attracted only 20 per cent of international commitments in support of clean energy to developing countries.

138. We welcome the call of parties<sup>2</sup> to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, as well as the adoption of policies, to make the transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy-efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phasing down of unabated coal power and phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition.

139. Access to clean cooking also remains a major concern in least developed countries, although the number of households have access to clean cooking methods increased to 17 per cent in 2019, up from 11 per cent in 2010. The majority of the people in least developed countries live in rural areas, with access to clean fuel for cooking as low as 7 per cent, and several least developed countries have overall access to clean cooking equal to or less than 5 per cent.

#### *Targets*

- By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services.
- Double the generation of electricity per capita in least developed countries by 2030.
- Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix (target 7.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals).
- Double financing from all sources in support of clean and renewable energy and enhance capacities in energy production, trade and distribution in least developed countries, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 7.
- By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all.
- Enhance technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to least developed countries to accelerate the transition to clean and renewable energy.
- By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to and promote investment in clean energy research and technology, as well as infrastructure, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 7.
- Fifty per cent of the annual financing flows to clean cooking and electricity access should be directed to the least developed countries.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

140. We encourage the doubling of international public finance and the mobilization of resources from all sources to meet the urgent need for investment in power generation and transmission, including grid reinforcement and the upgrading of technology, in order to provide affordable, modern, reliable and sustainable energy to all through improved generation, transmission and distribution facilities and enhanced energy efficiency in least developed countries. We also commit to promoting scaled-up and targeted support to least developed countries in the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including the global plan of action for the Decade.

141. We aim to provide financial and technical support to least developed countries on a priority basis to double the per capita generation of electricity in least developed

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

countries by 2030 and increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

142. We commit to strengthening cooperation at the regional level to promote innovation and facilitate financing, support regional cross-border power grid connectivity to advance economic integration and sustainable development, and share best practices, and in this regard we invite Governments to reinforce their energy interconnections, connecting regional energy markets and increasing energy security at the regional and global levels.

143. We commit to promoting women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes, mainstream a gender perspective into such policies and programmes, and ensure women's full and equal access to and use of sustainable energy to enhance their economic and social empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities.

144. We commit to promoting public and private investment to ensure that households make the transition to cleaner, more efficient and sustainable cooking technologies and fuels, including through publicly supported technology innovation accelerators, with a focus on remote, poor and vulnerable households.

145. We commit to increasing the deployment of least-cost decentralized solutions, policy support, and new business models and the sharing of best practices, including mini- and micro-grids, stand-alone renewable energy systems, rooftop solar photovoltaic panels and storage, digitally enabled and fintech solutions and other technologies that can be directly linked to livelihood improvement and economic activities, especially in remote low-demand areas, and that can help to close the access gap and bridge the last mile.

146. We call upon least developed countries to create enabling environments, including appropriate regulatory frameworks and policy reforms, to facilitate private sector investment and promote attractive project pipelines. We also invite development partners, multilateral development banks and other international and regional organizations, including the International Renewable Energy Agency, the International Solar Alliance and other relevant stakeholders, to substantially increase their investment in least developed countries, through a simplified access process, in developing sustainable, reliable, modern, inclusive and equitable energy systems, including by strengthening energy systems through cross-border grid connections, as appropriate, and giving consideration to incorporating decentralized renewable energy solutions in energy planning, as appropriate, and recognizing that energy transition will take different paths in different parts of the world.

147. We commit to the development, dissemination, diffusion, transfer on mutually agreed terms, and application of environmentally sound technologies to address the energy access challenges of least developed countries by identifying the specific needs of each country through mobilizing technical and financial assistance and tools to deploy affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions. We emphasize in this context the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, as well as improved infrastructure, for supplying affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

148. We commit to supporting the implementation of the Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development aimed at harnessing the potential of renewable energy across least developed countries and promoting energy efficiency. We call upon development partners to

provide resource allocations for aligned efforts and activities regarding the Initiative across all least developed countries.

**Connecting least developed countries to global and regional value chains and strengthening their services economy and trade**

149. Least developed countries are faced with numerous challenges in their efforts to integrate into regional and global value chains, including limited industrial development, low levels of productivity and diversification, lack of technology and structural transformation, limited access to trade finance, rules of origin and non-tariff barriers such as quality standards.

*Target*

- Significantly increase the value added and manufactured component of the exports of least developed countries, with the objective of integrating least developed countries into the regional and global value chains.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

150. We call for greater integration of least developed countries into the regional and global value chains to increase diversification and accelerate their structural economic transformation and sustainable development.

151. We commit to supporting least developed countries in significantly increasing their integration into the regional and global value chains, with a view to enhancing their competitiveness, leapfrogging their development process and driving their productivity growth. In this regard, we will support least developed countries in strengthening their productive capacity, export competitiveness, access to trade finance, skills transfer and connectivity, market access, trade facilitation and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

**Support for private sector development**

152. A dynamic, broad-based, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector is a valuable instrument for achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, access to goods and services, a source of tax revenue and sustainable structural transformation. Structural constraints, such as infrastructure bottlenecks, limited access to finance, high operating and trading costs, limited human capital, limited ICT capacities and institutional constraints, have limited the growth of the private sector in least developed countries.

*Targets*

- Create an enabling environment for private sector development, supporting its further alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ensure full and equal access to financial services and products for micro-, small medium-sized enterprises, including insurance, especially for women, and improve financial and digital literacy.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

153. We commit to promoting an enabling business environment conducive to growth and development, the absence of corruption, and a transparent and rules-based regulatory framework, simplifying business regulations and processes, reducing and streamlining administrative formalities, creating efficient national support mechanisms for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, improving supply

chains, facilitating access to markets, reinforcing cooperation, building capacities to implement effective competition policies, and adopting open, transparent and clear regulatory frameworks for business and investment, with protection for property rights and land rights, as appropriate, and in accordance with national circumstances and consistent with international legal frameworks. Where appropriate, we aim to strengthen regulatory frameworks to better align private sector incentives with public goals, foster long-term quality investment and ensure that the private sector adopts sustainable practices.

154. We commit to fostering economic activity and the ease of doing business for private companies by promoting domestic market and capital formation, economic clusters or hubs/industry parks/export processing zones that remove obstacles to investment and infrastructure usage, enable the simplified facilitation of business operations and trade and support least developed countries in the implementation of such measures. We will also support micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in entering into national, regional and global value chains by taking steps to close digital divides through financial support and access to appropriate digital tools and platforms connecting markets.

155. We commit to strengthening cooperation for the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of best practices that foster entrepreneurship, promote dialogue and contacts, and stimulate the transfer of skills and technology, on mutually agreed terms.

156. We support the provision of finance, including grants, technical assistance, seed funding and concessional financing, from donor countries, United Nations entities, the World Bank Group and IMF and the private sector, in order to leverage additional sources of finance for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to facilitate their growth and development. In this regard, we commit to promoting regular public-private sector dialogue.

#### **IV. Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration**

157. We recognize that least developed countries can derive significant benefit from a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO. Notwithstanding the massive expansion of trade and investment in the past decades, least developed countries face considerable challenges in effective integration into global trading systems and in benefiting from the opportunities afforded by international trade and global value chains.

158. We are concerned that the least developed countries' share of global merchandise exports stagnated over the past decade, remaining at 1 per cent. The Sustainable Development Goal target of doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 from 2011 (2 per cent target) has not been met.

159. We are concerned that, owing to COVID-19, merchandise exports of least developed countries fell by a further 9.1 per cent compared with the global average decline of 7.7 per cent in 2020.<sup>3</sup> In 2020, the value of the global services trade was down 35 per cent year on year. Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Limited export diversification has heightened the vulnerability of least developed countries to the impact of the pandemic on global

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<sup>3</sup> World Trade Organization, "Market access for products and services of export interest to least developed countries" (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/69, para. 3.9).

trade. The crisis has also highlighted the fundamental importance of trade in making essential goods and services available to countries and people in need.

160. We acknowledge that the share of total global exports of cultural goods from least developed countries accounted for only a 0.5 per cent share of total global exports, both in 2005 and 2014. The potential of the cultural and creative sector to enhance least developed countries' participation in and benefit from new opportunities for dynamic growth in world trade remains largely untapped.

161. We are concerned that rising protectionist tendencies are threatening to further weaken efforts regarding the expansion of international trade and emphasize that bilateral and regional trade agreements should complement but not substitute the role of WTO as the central governing body for global trade. Otherwise, the international trade landscape could become increasingly polarized and fragmented in the coming decades, which would be harmful for the least developed countries.

162. We call upon WTO members to fully and expeditiously implement all the decisions of its Ministerial Conferences taken in favour of least developed countries.

### **Key action areas**

#### **Duty-free and quota-free market access**

163. We note that there have been progressive improvements since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action on providing duty-free and quota-free market access to least developed countries. WTO members adopted a duty-free and quota-free market access decision at the Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013. Most of the developed country members grant either full or nearly full duty-free and quota-free market access, with gaps remaining in a limited number of markets and a few sectors. A number of developing country members have granted a significant degree of duty-free and quota-free market access to products from least developed countries and a number of them have reached nearly full duty-free and quota-free coverage. Least developed countries need to be provided with increasingly greater market access in preference-granting countries.

#### *Targets*

- Facilitate market access for products of least developed countries, including by developing simple and transparent rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by WTO members at the Ministerial Conference held in Bali in 2013.
- Significantly increase the exports of least developed countries, in particular with a view to doubling<sup>4</sup> their share of global exports by 2031.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

164. We call upon all developed country WTO members and developing country WTO members declaring themselves in a position to do so to timely implement duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all products originating from all least developed countries, consistent with WTO decisions, which would facilitate

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the review undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy in 2021 (E/2021/33), 16 least developed countries are in different stages of graduation. Therefore, a considerable number of them are likely to graduate by 2031, which may lower the overall export figure of least developed countries. This should be taken into account in assessments against the target.

the integration of least developed country producers into regional and global value chains.

165. We reiterate our conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed. We welcome that the United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions abruptly reduced. We invite development and trading partners to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction. We note that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at WTO, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category, and seek to further examine these issues.

166. We commit to fully meeting our transparency obligations on trade measures and meaningfully improving equitable access for all countries, especially least developed countries, to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, including through facilitating technology transfer within the framework of multilateral rules and applicable international obligations, so as to encourage research and innovation while at the same time supporting licensing agreements and any other arrangements on mutually agreed terms in the short and medium term, as well as any other long-term arrangements that help to scale up the manufacturing of vaccines and in a sustainable manner.

#### **Preferential rules of origin**

167. We note that considerable progress has been made towards ensuring that preferential rules of origin are simple and transparent and contribute to facilitating market access of imports from least developed countries. WTO members adopted two decisions on preferential rules of origin for least developed countries, at the Ministerial Conferences held in Bali in 2013 and in Nairobi in 2015. Almost all preference-granting members have submitted notifications of their preferential rules of origin requirements.

#### *Target*

- Ensure that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple and contribute to facilitating market access.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

168. We call upon all developed country WTO members and developing country WTO members declaring themselves in a position to do so to facilitate market access for products of least developed countries, including by applying simple and transparent preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by WTO members at the Ministerial Conference held in Bali in 2013 and the decisions taken at the Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi in 2015. We call upon preference-granting members that have not yet done so, to notify their least developed country-specific preferential rules of origin to enhance transparency.

169. We invite development partners to provide technical and financial assistance to least developed countries to further scale up their legal and technical capacity to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade provisions.

### **Least developed countries services waiver**

170. We recognize that the agreements on trade in services enable the liberalization of services across all modes of supply and help to boost trade in services and attract investment, as well as enable safe, regular and orderly mobility, including by removing barriers to the temporary movement of natural persons to supply services abroad, or “mode 4” of trade in services. We note that efforts are being made to improve the participation of least developed countries in services trade. We note that 51 members (including individual European Union member States) have notified their preferences under the least developed countries services waiver. We note that multilateral commitments in this regard have been limited and conditioned by measures such as economic needs tests, quotas or pre-employment requirements.

#### *Target*

- Increase least developed countries’ exports of services by fully implementing the WTO ministerial decision on the operationalization of the waiver concerning preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of least developed countries and encourage members that have not yet notified their preferences under the least developed countries services waiver, to also do the same.

### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

171. We call upon the WTO members to take concrete measures, including meaningful preferences for least developed countries services and service suppliers, in accordance with the WTO ministerial decisions in 2011, 2013 and 2015 on the operationalization of the least developed countries services waiver and in response to the collective request of those countries. We also call for strengthening domestic service capacity in least developed countries through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building.

### **Technical assistance and capacity-building, including through Aid for Trade**

172. We note that, between 2011 and 2019, more than \$100 billion was disbursed in Aid for Trade to support least developed countries in strengthening infrastructure, building productive capacity and enhancing trade policy and regulations. After reaching a peak of \$20 billion in 2018, Aid for Trade commitments to least developed countries fell by 19 per cent, to \$16.6 billion in 2019. Although Aid for Trade funding to least developed countries has grown 13 per cent annually since 2006, reaching \$13.5 billion in 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to slow or reverse this trend.

#### *Target*

- Significantly increase Aid for Trade support for least developed countries, which is expected to double by 2031 from 2018 levels.<sup>5</sup>

### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

173. We aim to increase the proportion of total Aid for Trade going to least developed countries, provided according to development cooperation effectiveness principles, which is expected to double by 2031 from 2018 levels. We also call for increased support from multilateral development banks and the private sector to meet trade financing needs. We urge private and public sector actors to work together to address

<sup>5</sup> Aid for Trade funding to least developed countries has grown 13 per cent annually since 2006, reaching \$13.5 billion in 2018. See Helen Castell, “6 takeaways from WTO’s Aid-for-Trade stocktaking even for least developed countries”, Trade for Development News (20 April 2021).



trade finance gaps, by enabling a rapid transition to paperless trading and addressing regulatory constraints that hinder trade finance.

174. We, in acknowledging and building on achievements made to date, including by the Enhanced Integrated Framework and others providing support to least developed countries, commit to providing trade-related assistance and financial and technical support to enhance the institutional and productive capacity of the least developed countries, in line with the objective of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

175. We note that 35 of 46 least developed countries, or more than three quarter, are WTO members. Since 2011, six least developed countries have successfully completed the accession process and joined WTO. Currently, eight least developed countries are at different stages of the accession process.

#### *Target*

- Ensure accession to WTO of all least developed countries committed to do so by the end of the current decade.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

176. We call upon WTO members to fully implement the 2002 accession guidelines for least developed countries and the 2012 General Council decision<sup>6</sup> as the accession instruments for least developed countries and refrain from seeking concessions and commitments beyond the benchmarks aimed at ensuring the accession of all least developed countries in WTO by the next decade. We commit to supporting acceding least developed countries in meeting existing requirements and those least developed countries committed to acceding and pushing through the domestic reforms necessary in that respect to strengthen their human, institutional and regulatory capacities in trade policy and trade negotiations, to ensure their accession.

177. We commit to providing appropriate support, such as financial and technical support, to least developed countries in order to support the negotiations for the accession of least developed countries to WTO.

#### **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights**

178. We welcome the entry into force on 23 January 2017 of the TRIPS amendment aimed at facilitating access to medicines for countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities. We welcome that, pursuant to the decision on the implementation of article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement, developed country members have provided annual reports on incentives and planned action under article 66.2. We also welcome that, in 2021, the duration of the general transition period under article 66.1 has been further extended until 1 July 2034. Similarly, in 2015, the specific transition to implement or apply sections 5 (patents) and 7 (protection of undisclosed information) of part II of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to pharmaceutical products was extended until 1 January 2033 for least developed countries.

#### *Target*

- Support least developed countries by providing incentives to enterprises and institutions in developed country member territories for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least developed countries, in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base.

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<sup>6</sup> General Council, World Trade Organization, "Accession of least developed countries", addendum, 25 July 2012 (WT/L/508/Add.1).

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

179. We reiterate the importance of article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement to provide incentives by developed country members to the enterprises and institutions in their territories for promoting technology transfer to enable least developed countries to create a sound and viable technological base and note the recent discussions on this article, in particular on the meaning of “incentives to enterprises and institutions”.

180. We acknowledge the importance of the TRIPS flexibilities available to least developed countries, including the extensions of the general transition period under article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement and of the transition period under article 66.1, which provides that least developed country members will not be obliged, with respect to pharmaceutical products, to implement or apply sections 5 (patents) and 7 (protection of undisclosed information) of part II of the TRIPS Agreement or to enforce rights provided for under these sections until 1 January 2033, or until such a date on which they cease to be a least developed country member, whichever date is earlier.

**Agriculture and cotton**

181. We note the progress made in reforming agricultural trade. We attach great importance to the ongoing discussions with a view to reducing trade-distorting support in agriculture, including cotton, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2 commitments. We recognize the importance of food security and nutrition. We will engage constructively to continue negotiations, including on a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes. We will work to advance the discussions on export restrictions, including on foodstuff purchased by the World Food Programme.

*Target*

- Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural and cotton markets, including through the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect, consistent with the decision taken at the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi in 2015, with a view to achieving the long-term objective of substantial progressive reductions in support and protection of agricultural products.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

182. We call for correcting and preventing trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural and cotton markets, including through the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect. We also call for better markets for small cotton farmers in developing and least developed countries and reaffirm the various commitments made on cotton, the last of which was at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Nairobi in 2015.

**World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation**

183. We note that, while the current implementation rate of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation stands at 70.2 per cent for all WTO members, the implementation rate of least developed countries was only 36.8 per cent as at 10 June 2021. We also note that 80 per cent of least developed countries have already identified their technical assistance needs. We further note that there are several challenges for least developed countries in implementing the Agreement, owing primarily to financial, technical and regulatory capacity constraints.

*Target*

- Fully implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and provide assistance in and support for capacity-building of least developed countries in this regard, in accordance with development cooperation effectiveness principles.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

184. We will implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation to speed up customs procedures, make trade easier, faster and cheaper, provide clarity, efficiency and transparency, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and use technological advances.

185. We commit to supporting least developed countries in the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, including assistance in and support for capacity-building to least developed countries to enable implementation of the Agreement, consistent with the Agreement, especially implementation of category C provisions based on the technical assistance requirement as notified by least developed country members. We also commit to working together within WTO, including through the ongoing quadrennial reviews of the Agreement, to support implementation through coordination, the sharing of experiences and transparency.

**E-commerce**

186. We note that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital technologies as tools for continuing economic activity during the crisis. E-commerce can take the form of business-to-business or business-to-consumer transactions, combined with secure online mobile platforms and fintech solutions fundamentally, and can profoundly reduce the matching costs by which buyers and suppliers can meet, connect and create profits within the country and across borders and facilitate access to last-mile producers and markets. This can speed up economic adjustments to shocks such as COVID-19 and many other profound economic, environmental and geopolitical shocks that a country may face in the coming years. The huge potential notwithstanding, least developed countries have been unable to sufficiently benefit from the opportunities offered by e-commerce owing to a lack of necessary digital infrastructure, logistical facilities, digital literacy and skills, and fintech solutions, as well as regulatory and policy frameworks.

*Target*

- Increase the participation of least developed countries in e-commerce by strengthening ICT infrastructure and building their human and institutional capacities to better support the development of and integration into digital value chains.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

187. We will contribute to strengthening e-commerce in least developed countries by building digital ecosystems and providing capacity-building support. We urge development partners to provide additional and substantial support to least developed countries in building and gaining access to required infrastructure in energy, electricity and digital infrastructure; promoting personal data protection; upgrading workforce skills; ensuring affordable and reliable access to broadband and mobile networks and Wi-Fi connectivity, including in the last mile; facilitating mobile banking with low- or no-fee digital payments; and strengthening productive capacity and structural transformation, along with transparent and fair regulations, for promoting e-commerce and the integration of least developed countries into the global economy. We note the efforts of participants in the ongoing WTO Joint Statement

Initiative on Electronic Commerce towards ensuring a high standard and commercially meaningful outcome that works for all to promote data flow with trust.

188. We note the discussions held under the 1998 work programme on e-commerce and encourage all WTO members to reinvigorate the work programme in line with the spirit of its mandate and with a view to bridging the digital gaps among and within countries. We urge all development partners to enrich their support to address capacity constraints in e-commerce in the least developed countries, to enable them to participate in and benefit from the global trading system through e-commerce and the digital economy, which is much needed in the light of the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

#### **Special and differential treatment**

189. We call for the full implementation of the provisions of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with WTO agreements. We welcome the establishment of the monitoring mechanism to analyse and review all aspects of the implementation of special and differential treatment provisions, as agreed at the Ministerial Conference held in Bali in 2013, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, as well as facilitating integration of developing and least developed WTO members into the multilateral trading system.

#### **Regional integration**

190. We underline that regional cooperation, including trade integration and transit cooperation, can facilitate the integration of least developed countries into the global trading system. We note that, as at 1 February 2021, 339 regional trade agreements were in force, of which 42 are in Africa. Among others, the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership present a major opportunity for participating least developed countries to boost trade, output in services, and the manufacturing and natural resources sectors. Positive experiences notwithstanding, regional and international cooperation still needs to rise to the challenges ahead.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

191. We commit to promoting regional economic integration and enhancing regional connectivity to increase regional trade, including integration of least developed countries into regional value chains and services trade. We urge the international community, including international financial institutions and multilateral and regional development banks, to increase their support for capacity-building projects and programmes that foster regional and subregional integration, with special attention given to least developed countries, and that enhance the participation and integration of small-scale industrial and other enterprises into regional and global value chains and markets.

192. We commit to supporting least developed countries in the implementation of multi-country customs transit guarantee regimes through the implementation of either international transit agreements or functional regional agreements.

193. We commit to supporting least developed countries' efforts in promoting subregional and regional cooperation, including export promotion, and improving regional connectivity through trade-facilitating measures, such as joint projects on customs and border procedures and, insofar as possible, telecommunications facilities and energy.

194. We will provide assistance to landlocked and small island least developed countries aimed at addressing the challenges in their remoteness from international markets and lack of infrastructure.

**V. Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development**

195. The least developed countries are especially vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and other disasters. Some countries have adopted good practices in addressing these effects, which include the installation and use of early warning systems; adaptation solutions in key sectors and systems such as agriculture and food security, water, health, infrastructure and ecosystems; forecast-based financing; integrating climate change, environmental and disaster risk considerations in development planning; development of risk indices to support various stakeholders; comprehensive risk management approaches; and sustainable management of natural resources.

196. We recognize that the outcomes from the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>7</sup> held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, related to loss and damage, including resolving to strengthen partnerships between developing and developed countries, funds, technical agencies, civil society and communities to enhance understanding of how approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage can be improved, and urge developed country parties to the Framework Conventions, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, to provide enhanced and additional support for activities that address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

197. The COVID-19 pandemic and its health, economic and social consequences, including increasing gender and other inequalities, have further underlined the need for multilateral cooperation, unity and solidarity to protect public health and to prepare for and respond to health emergencies, across all sectors, using holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches, recognizing the interconnectedness among the health of humans, animals, plants and their shared environment, including through collaboration among the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme.

198. Among more than 120 countries reporting across all Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction targets for disaster losses in 2019, least developed countries accounted for 48 per cent of livelihood disruptions, 40 per cent of deaths, 17 per cent of economic losses and 14 per cent of infrastructure damage, although their combined GDP amounted to only 1 per cent of the total and their combined populations were only 18 per cent of the global population.

199. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only exposed, but also amplified least developed countries' high degree of vulnerability and the risks of cascading crises. We are concerned that a prolonged economic downturn following the pandemic risks adversely affecting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda and

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<sup>7</sup> Including also the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the ability of countries, especially least developed countries, to adequately respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

200. We are deeply concerned that the limited fiscal space and resilience capacity in least developed countries pose serious constraints on their ability to address the COVID-19 pandemic and foster sustainable recovery. The investment in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in least developed countries has fallen considerably short of meeting needs. We are also concerned that climate change impacts are becoming more acute. Food insecurity and malnutrition, water stress, quality and scarcity, land degradation, biodiversity loss, melting of glaciers, ocean acidification, coastal erosion, sea level rise, damage to infrastructure and assets, pressures on pastures, displacement of populations, threats to cultural heritage, disruption of indigenous and traditional lifestyles, and threats to livelihoods are severely disrupting economic and social development. Changes in the access to and availability of water resources are disrupting hydroelectric generation and putting industrial production and basic services at increased risk, while sanitation and wastewater management remain a source of concern. We urge least developed countries, and will support them through strengthening partnerships, global coordination and cooperation, to adopt an all-hazard, multisectoral and coordinated approach in preparedness for health emergencies, recognizing the links between human, plant and animal health and their shared environment and the need for a One Health approach.

201. We are committed to reducing the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, environmental shocks and natural hazards, especially those related to climate change, and to enhancing their ability to meet these and other challenges through enhanced adaptive capacity and resilience. Building adaptive capacity and resilience, including at the individual and community level, lies at the core of the Doha Programme of Action, in line with the provisions contained in international agreements on climate change, disaster risk reduction and the environment.

### **Key action areas**

#### **Building sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 and resilience against future shocks**

202. On average, it is projected that the least developed countries are expected to take three to five years or more to recover to their pre-COVID-19 crisis level of per capita GDP. The persistent challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation threaten to further impede recovery efforts.

#### *Targets*

- Support timely access to safe, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines.
- Provide necessary support to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and other relevant initiatives to vaccinate all eligible individuals against COVID-19 as early as possible and 70 per cent of the population in least developed countries by mid-2022, as recommended by the World Health Organization.<sup>8</sup>
- Ensure equitable and affordable access for all to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

<sup>8</sup> See World Health Organization, “Strategy to achieve global COVID-19 vaccination by mid-2022”, 6 October 2021.

- Promote and encourage technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to increase production capacities of the entire supply chain of vaccines and any other health products in the regions of least developed countries.
- Support the supply and conservation environment, and the distribution and administration and surveillance of vaccines.
- Ensure adequate domestic and international support to strengthen inclusive social protection systems in the least developed countries, to address current poverty and vulnerability and future shocks.
- Support awareness-raising campaigns about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.
- Ensure widespread testing and tracing, maintenance and access to adequate stocks of therapeutics and personal protective equipment and ventilation equipment.
- Promote the building of strong health systems and regulatory authorities that ensure universal access to health care in the least developed countries to address current and future shocks.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

203. We take note of the “Statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) burgeoning challenges and a global stimulus package for the least developed countries”<sup>9</sup> and commit to supporting its implementation, as appropriate.

204. We recognize the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, through safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines that are available, leaving no one behind. We support adequate and timely access to quality, safe and effective vaccines in order to vaccinate all eligible populations in least developed countries at an affordable price, on an equitable basis and as quickly as possible, including through the COVAX Facility.

205. We stress that vaccinations need to be supported with essential complementary measures to minimize the loss of lives and morbidity from the COVID-19 pandemic and urge development partners to provide to least developed countries, in a timely manner, access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable diagnoses, therapeutics, medicines, medical science-based treatment protocols, vaccines, and essential health technologies and their components, as well as equipment, for the COVID-19 response, including through the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. We reaffirm the TRIPS Agreement, as amended, and the 2001 Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property rights should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of member States to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, and note the need for appropriate incentives in the development of new health products.

206. We support adequate and timely access to quality, safe and effective vaccines in order to vaccinate all eligible populations in least developed countries at an affordable price, on an equitable basis, and as quickly as possible, including through the COVAX Facility, adequate support to address liquidity and fiscal space constraints and debt relief, when appropriate, and international trade measures being put in place to

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<sup>9</sup> See [A/74/843](#).

support their recovery in a sustainable manner and that builds resilience against future shocks.

207. We commit to providing adequate domestic and international support to ensure equitable and affordable access for all to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, and strengthening inclusive social protection systems in the least developed countries, to address current poverty and vulnerability and future shocks. In a spirit of global solidarity and international cooperation among Governments, as well as partnerships with international organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector, we call upon development partners to provide financial and in-kind support to least developed countries such as direct budgetary support or project-type interventions and to increase the resources of relevant regional and multilateral emergency financing facilities and ease the conditions of access to these facilities.

208. We commit to establishing and strengthening inclusive social protection mechanisms to protect the poorest and most vulnerable, including the provision of direct support in the form of cash or food or other essentials, as appropriate, to at least 350 million people living in extreme poverty in least developed countries. In this regard, we encourage Governments and development partners to provide funds for social protection, including to those living in extreme poverty in least developed countries.

209. We commit to ensuring that stimulus measures are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and contribute to fast recovery and “building back better”<sup>10</sup> from the COVID-19 pandemic, and building resilience in least developed countries, including by conserving, sustainably using and restoring natural ecosystems and biodiversity, including through nature-based solutions, sustainable agriculture; sustainable, accessible, reliable and resilient infrastructure, and the built environment; catalytic concessional financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; sustainable finance instruments such as green bonds and Sustainable Development Goal bonds; and incentives for private investment in sustainable opportunities such as affordable renewable energies, sustainable waste management, shock-responsive supply chains, life-cycle approaches, and safe, smart and sustainable mobility.

210. We commit to enhancing cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to address antimicrobial resistance, using an integrated and systems-based One Health approach, including through health system strengthening, capacity-building, including for research and regulatory capacity, and technical support, and to ensure equitable access to affordable, safe, effective and quality existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, as well as effective stewardship.

#### **Climate adaptation and building resilience, including sustainable management of natural resources**

211. While least developed countries have made some progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, they often lack the resources and capacity to address critical needs. Adaptation and resilience in food systems, including in the sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, social protection services and livestock, are of prime importance for least developed countries and have major implications for food security, nutrition, livelihoods, especially of the most vulnerable in society, and

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<sup>10</sup> In the context of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which is aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.



employment. Water resources already face multiple pressures and are highly sensitive to climate change impacts such as the drying-up of sources, disruption in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of both extreme and slow-onset events, which reinforce already existing trends in land degradation and desertification. The rapid projected growth of urban populations presents challenges in the provision of services such as water and sanitation, which must develop and grow at a faster rate in order to keep pace. Localization of climate action, including support for local governments and building resilient communities, is extremely important because they understand local needs and are on the front line of climate change adaptation action, and disaster risk reduction, response and recovery. Critical infrastructure services, such as transport, water and electricity, remain highly unreliable and vulnerable to extreme climatic events. Measures to restore and improve the sustainable management of key natural resources such as water and land, as well as biodiversity, are urgently needed.

212. We note the high importance of building resilience in least developed countries through stepped-up capacity-building and finance for adaptation to climate change, including through comprehensive multi-stakeholder resilience-building measures for least developed countries, leveraging the Green Climate Fund and existing measures and initiatives such as the National Adaptation Plan Global Network and the United Nations Capital Development Fund's Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility.

#### *Targets*

- Support the full formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, including integrated and strategic adaptation action at the national and local levels by all least developed countries, making use of the Green Climate Fund and existing initiatives such as the National Adaptation Plan Global Network and the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility.
- Develop and strengthen national and regional platforms and strategies for disaster risk reduction to take action to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Support and reinforce, as appropriate, the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crisis mitigation and resilience-building measures for least developed countries.
- Continue to support the development and implementation of adaptation communications, strategies and plans, including those that may be included as components of nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies under the Paris Agreement.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

213. We commit to continuing and striving for increased support, such as for capacity-building for adaptation planning and implementation in least developed countries, including through the least developed country work programme under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and additional and complementary means, in order to address medium- and long-term adaptation needs through the formulation of national adaptation plans and subsequent implementation of the policies, programmes and projects identified by them.

214. We commit to strengthening Action for Climate Empowerment in least developed countries through the development and implementation of training programmes focused on climate change education at all levels.

215. We commit to providing the technical assistance to least developed countries necessary to develop operational national risk information systems that support

policymaking and decision-making by all stakeholders, including national and local governments, private sector business operations, cultural heritage managers and bearers, the real estate sector and land planning agencies, the insurance industry and local communities.

216. We decide to enhance support to least developed countries in strengthening their national statistical and planning offices and other relevant authorities for the systematic collection, analysis and validation of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, and in strengthening interinstitutional and inclusive coordination on disaster risk data, risk assessments and integrated analysis.

217. We underline the need for reinforcing the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures for least developed countries aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a key instrument to build resilience against and mitigate the impacts of various shocks, and are committed to making the best use of existing initiatives. We invite the Secretary-General to undertake, with least developed countries, a comprehensive study involving all relevant United Nations Development Systems and other relevant stakeholders on the existing arrangements, lessons learned and identified gaps and submit it to the General Assembly for further consideration.

218. We call for public and private, domestic and international investment, as well as bilateral and multilateral support, to be climate-resilient, risk-informed and aligned with national and local adaptation, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies and efforts related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.

219. We commit to enhancing international cooperation and technical assistance and support to least developed countries so that they can take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and land degradation and loss of territory, halt biodiversity loss and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

#### **Access to finance and technology to address climate change**

220. We note with concern that the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient to respond to worsening climate change impacts in developing country parties and recognize the importance of the adequacy and predictability of adaptation finance. We welcome that the parties<sup>11</sup> urged developed country parties to urgently and significantly scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation so as to respond to the needs of developing country parties as part of a global effort, including for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans and adaptation communications. Many least developed countries face challenges in gaining direct access to international public finance owing to a lack of technical capacity. We support the provision of assistance to least developed countries in preparing bankable projects and creating enabling environments, and we encourage further efforts to enhance access to finance.

#### *Targets*

- Recognizing the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding delivering on the goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion in climate finance per year, scale up support for developing countries, including least developed countries.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

- The provision of scaled-up financial resources should be intended to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country-driven strategies.
- Increase climate finance provided for adaptation and resilience, in particular for vulnerable countries, including least developed countries.
- Continue to support the implementation of national adaptation plans and national adaptation programmes of action of least developed countries under the Green Climate Fund and other climate-relevant funds under the Global Environment Facility, including the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and the Adaptation Fund.
- Increase financing for nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches for climate mitigation and adaptation.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

221. We recognize that limiting global warming to 1.5°Celsius requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including a reduction in global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases. We urge the parties to the Paris Agreement that have not yet communicated new or updated nationally determined contributions to do so as soon as possible in advance of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. Recalling article 3 and paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 11 of article 4 of the Paris Agreement, we welcome the request of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties of the Paris Agreement for parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions, as necessary, to align with the Agreement's temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances. We further welcome the establishment of a work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade, as well as the convening of an annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambitions, beginning at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

222. We welcome that the parties<sup>12</sup> urged developed country parties to deliver in full on the \$100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges. We also welcome that they urged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investment in climate action, and call for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance.

223. We recall, as provided for in article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement, that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should be intended to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country-driven strategies, and the priorities and needs of developing country parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States, considering the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation.

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

224. We welcome that the parties<sup>13</sup> urged developed country parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, recalling article 9, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.

225. We welcome the decisions of the Board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time on a grant-equivalent basis and to continue to provide at least 50 per cent and (in line with the Green Climate Fund's initial resource mobilization allocation floor) to aim to allocate 69 per cent<sup>14</sup> of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including least developed countries.

226. We commit to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of funding to climate-related multilateral funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, including the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, and other climate-relevant funds and to continue to improve access to all these funds by least developed countries. We also call upon relevant parties to simplify, as appropriate, the access procedures for climate finance for least developed countries and to support the least developed countries, including through the new task force on access to climate finance. We also call for greater efforts to improve access to climate finance for least developed countries and support least developed countries in developing technical capacity to ensure efficient access to financial resources.

227. We will continue to support the development of approaches in least developed countries for dealing with adaptation, including nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and adaptation in cities, which will include the most disproportionately affected people such as young people, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and girls; and the approaches will focus on the development of essential climate resilience programmes regarding food systems, water resources, health services, living spaces and settlements and critical infrastructure.

228. We will continue to enhance regional cooperation and support for least developed countries in addressing the impacts of regional transboundary climate risks associated with supply and value chains.

229. We request relevant entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and development banks, as well as the private sector and foundations, to continue to support least developed countries in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans and strategies, nationally determined contributions and national disaster risk reduction strategies to advance mitigation and adaptation. We also call upon these entities to apply the Principles for Responsible Investment and to commit to comprehensive and robust physical climate-related risk assessments and disclosures related to their activities in least developed countries.

230. We will continue to invest in gender-responsive prevention and risk reduction, including risk-informed and resilient infrastructure and public services and in the adoption of legislation, policies and standards that regulate and incentivize investors and companies to adopt a risk-informed approach and that enable monetary and regulatory authorities to incorporate the impact of disaster and climate risks into

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<sup>13</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

<sup>14</sup> Green Climate Fund, "Decisions of the Board – twenty-seventh meeting of the Board, 9–13 November 2020", decision B.27/06, paras. 33 (b) and (h) (ii). Available at [www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-b27-22.pdf](http://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-b27-22.pdf).

regulatory and policy frameworks, as recommended in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

231. We commit to providing significant support to existing climate and disaster risk finance and insurance and catastrophe-triggered financial instruments such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, the African Risk Capacity Agency and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company, as well as developing and enhancing the capacity of existing instruments and derivatives that provide risk insurance and guarantees for where they are most needed, such as micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and low-income households with a gender-responsive approach. We note the risk pools by development partners within the framework of the InsuResilience Global Partnership.

232. We commit to providing financial and technical assistance and facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to least developed countries to develop and implement national strategies for the sustainable use, preservation, protection and restoration of the natural resources and the sustainable management of marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems based on the best scientific evidence available, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

233. We call for action by the private sector, including banks and institutional investors, to support environmental, social and corporate governance issues and to take climate change and biodiversity into consideration in their investment decisions in least developed countries.

## **VI. Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools: a march towards sustainable graduation**

234. We acknowledge that least developed countries are dependent in large part on public resources to finance sustainable development needs and ensure a smooth transition from the least developed country category. Available resources – domestic, external, public and private – have not been sufficient to meet growing investment and spending needs. The high reliance of least developed countries on external resources, including ODA, FDI, concessional lending and private flows, such as remittances and portfolio investment, persisted over the past decade. During the Istanbul Programme of Action implementation period, external debt has been rising and is, in some cases, exacerbated by large costs caused by disasters and structural vulnerabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout have exacerbated financial vulnerabilities and debt risks in least developed countries, which have been building up over the past decade.

235. We welcome progress made over the past decade with respect to graduation and stress that continued support and incentives will be important to accelerate the number of least developed countries reaching the graduation thresholds and for ensuring sustainable and irreversible graduation with momentum.

236. We aim to support least developed countries and graduating countries in achieving at least 7 per cent GDP growth per annum and growth in the disposable income of households in the bottom half of the income distribution.

### **Key action areas**

#### **Support for domestic resource mobilization and fight against illicit financial flows**

237. We acknowledge that the low tax-to-GDP ratios of least developed countries can be explained in part by their economic structures, high poverty rates, weak tax administration and the nature of their tax systems. The median tax-to-GDP ratio in

least developed countries increased very slowly, from 13.3 in 2011 to 16.2 per cent in 2018, with rates lower than 10 per cent in several of them. Efforts to increase government revenue have been under way in many least developed countries, including through the broadening of the tax base and enhancing compliance and transparency, including through the digitalization of tax systems. Other challenges for least developed countries include illicit financial flows and resource-intensive tax administration, as well as inappropriate transfer pricing.

238. We recognize that continued development of the institutional capacity of least developed countries for efficient, effective and transparent public procurement practices is an important opportunity for expanding the resources that least developed countries can channel towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, including achieving its Sustainable Development Goals, combating climate change and biodiversity loss and recovering from COVID-19.

#### *Target*

- Increase tax revenue as a proportion of GDP to at least 15 per cent in all least developed countries to enable them to become self-sustainable.
- Enhance international cooperation for the recovery of stolen assets and their return to their countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- Enhance intergovernmental coordination to prevent illicit financial flows.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

239. We call upon least developed countries to make substantial efforts to effectively mobilize domestic resources, build up financial infrastructure and capacities, and put in place appropriate regulatory measures and institutions; to continue to take measures to create conditions for attracting and sustaining investment and mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private; and to continue to undertake the fiscal reforms necessary, as appropriate, to build effective, transparent, fair and accountable national tax and financial management systems, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We call upon development partners and relevant institutions to enhance support for development and strengthen revenue digitization and call for enhanced financial and technical support to build the revenue collection capacity of least developed countries.

240. Recognizing the efforts of least developed countries to enhance domestic resource generation, we commit to supporting efforts by least developed countries towards progressive taxation, building capacity and strengthening tax administration, combating tax evasion, savings mobilization, digitalization of tax administration and financial inclusion, all of which should enable the delivery of sustainable, effective, transparent and efficient public service, including for the poorest and most vulnerable, with savings channelled to productive investment and to reducing inequalities. We stress the importance of conducive international regulatory frameworks and transparency and of support by national and regional financial institutions, including development banks, in this respect.

241. We commit to enhanced international tax cooperation and efforts to close international tax loopholes, all of which are aimed at avoiding base erosion and profit shifting, and welcome support through initiatives such as Tax Inspectors Without Borders and the Addis Tax Initiative. We commit to supporting least developed countries in taking advantage of increases in tax transparency and the exchange of information, such as by implementing the new international standard of automatic exchange of information.

242. We recommit to strengthening the capacities of revenue administration and the broadening of the taxpayer base, and supporting voluntary compliance, accountability and transparency, efficient revenue management and efficient risk management, including through digitalization and transformation of tax administration, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We acknowledge that any consideration of tax measures in response to the digital economy should include a careful analysis of the implications for least developed countries, taking into account their input and their unique needs and capacities.

243. We encourage the use of and improved access to innovative tools, such as mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments, as appropriate, including by women and micro-businesses, and we recognize the role that these can play in promoting financial inclusion, as well as reducing costs, increasing transparency, improving the speed and security of payments and opening up new markets.

244. We call for support by development partners and international and regional financial institutions to support the strengthening of the capacity of domestic financial institutions and the banking system to promote appropriate, affordable and stable financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises through the creation of credit lines that encourage venture capital funds, facilitate access to public capital markets, targeting those enterprises, and to create, strengthen and widen lending markets that cater to the diversified needs of private enterprises, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and consumers, including women.

245. We commit to substantially reducing illicit financial flows in order to help least developed countries to mobilize resources, including through increased international cooperation, to stem corruption and money-laundering and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets and their return to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to developing their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation, facilitate customs services and investigate and prosecute offences to contribute to the success of efforts to reduce illicit financial flows derived from crimes.

246. We call upon all countries and relevant institutions to implement measures to enhance disclosure practices and promote transparency in financial information and enhance disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries, and to cooperate in efforts to reduce illicit financial flows and corruption.

#### **International public and external finance to contribute to sustainable development in least developed countries**

247. We note with appreciation that ODA to least developed countries by Development Assistance Committee countries increased in real terms from 2011 to 2019 by some 4.6 per cent, but note with concern that the average share of gross national income provided as ODA to least developed countries from Development Assistance Committee countries declined from 0.10 to 0.08 per cent during that time period.<sup>15</sup> At the same time, we note that ODA remains crucial for financing investment for sustainable development in least developed countries, while innovative sources of finance, such as blended finance, remained limited in these countries. There is a clear

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<sup>15</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD.Stat, with figures for official development assistance to least developed countries derived from table DAC2a and the underlying gross national income figures derived from table DAC1.

need for more determined efforts by developed countries to fulfil and, where possible, enhance their relevant ODA commitments to least developed countries.

248. We underline that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation is vital to least developed countries, noting that South-South cooperation and commitments are not a substitute but a complement to North-South cooperation, in particular with regard to technical assistance, and the sharing of best practices in terms of their development, especially in areas of productive capacity-building, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation.

249. We recognize the rising significance of impact investing as a new public-private financing mechanism for the 2030 Agenda and underline the urgent need to develop mechanisms to channel public and private investment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in least developed countries. We also encourage greater efforts in establishing impact investing funds, targeting agricommodities and associated smallholders and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the least developed countries.

#### *Target*

- Ensure the fulfilment of respective ODA commitments to least developed countries.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

250. We commit to ensuring the fulfilment of all ODA commitments to least developed countries, ensuring the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national priorities and increasing the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national systems and procedures. We welcome the decision by the European Union by which it reaffirms its collective commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertakes to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda. We encourage ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to the least developed countries. We are encouraged by those that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries.

251. We invite development partners to ensure that the allocation of global ODA resources takes into account the structural handicaps and constraints that are unique to least developed countries. We call upon development partners to ensure the right balance in the allocation of ODA fostering sustainable development in its three dimensions, namely, economic, social and environmental, and in various sectors, as well as for building resilience against various shocks and for the empowerment of women.

252. We call upon the countries of the global South to further strengthen their support to least developed countries in all these areas in a predictable manner along the lines of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

253. We urge development partners to ensure that multilateral, regional and national development banks facing capital constraints have a solid financial position to provide necessary and timely support, including concessional finance of multilateral development banks to least developed countries, through a simplified access process. We welcome the advancement of the International Development Association's twentieth replenishment and call for further initiatives by the international community.



254. We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We will align activities with the national priorities of least developed countries, including by reducing fragmentation and accelerating the untying of aid. All parties to the Doha Programme of Action will promote country ownership and results orientation and strengthen country systems, use programme-based approaches, where appropriate, strengthen partnerships for development, reduce transaction costs and increase transparency and mutual accountability. We will make development more effective and predictable by providing least developed countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term. Least developed countries will provide whole-of-society national sustainable development strategies and costed medium-term financing frameworks. Least developed countries will also improve transparency and accountability on external finance to all domestic constituencies.

255. We will hold open, inclusive and transparent discussions on the modernization of the ODA measurement and on the proposed measure of “total official support for sustainable development” and affirm that any such measure will not dilute commitments already made.

256. We encourage innovative finance, including blended finance in order to leverage additional, substantial and predictable finance disbursed in a manner that respects the priorities and special needs of least developed countries and does not unduly burden them. This could include expanding ODA allocations and other international public finance uses to include flexible financing that can be used as first-loss, concessional or de-risking capital to attract additional resources from the private sector to Sustainable Development Goal-aligned investment across the investment continuum that can scale to address the needs of least developed countries. We commit to significantly scaling up support in the form of concessional financing and equity for existing financing mechanisms that deliver catalytic investment capital, for example, for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and small investment projects in least developed countries and graduated countries, to mobilize sustainable private investment that advances the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and acts as a crisis facility.

257. We welcome the IMF special drawing rights allocation of the equivalent of \$650 billion of 23 August 2021 to meet the long-term global need to supplement reserve assets, and encourage countries with strong external positions to seek options for the voluntary channelling of special drawing rights, in accordance with national laws and regulations. and to this end appreciate the efforts of IMF to seek further viable options for the voluntary channelling of special drawing rights to countries most in need, including least developed countries, such as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the new Resilience and Sustainability Trust, with a view to providing affordable long-term financing to developing countries in a manner that preserves their external debt sustainability, and encourage the consideration of viable options to voluntarily channel through multilateral development banks.

258. We call upon official creditors to make long-term sustainable financing available to least developed countries through grants and concessional funding and to offer more fixed-interest lending at low interest rates, emphasizing that this is part of a mix of financing approaches that also include grants.

#### **Foreign direct investment**

259. We note with concern that FDI flows to least developed countries had already been on a decline since 2015, reaching \$21 billion, or 1.4 per cent, of world FDI in

2019. COVID-19 accelerated the decline of FDI to least developed countries, which remains heavily concentrated in the extractive industries. Several least developed countries have undertaken steps to facilitate investment, such as the acceleration of approval procedures, the increased use of digital tools, a reduction in fees and automatic renewal of permits.

260. We note the establishment of the Investment Support Programme for Least Developed Countries, implemented by the International Development Law Organization, which is aimed at providing legal and technical support to least developed countries on investment-related matters. We commit to further strengthening the Programme, invite donors to continue to support it and encourage least developed countries to make wide use of the Programme's facilities.

*Target*

- Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

261. We commit to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries. We reiterate the decision<sup>16</sup> to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support for investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities, improving enabling environments, and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of establishing an international investment support centre for least developed countries in the form of a one-stop shop to mobilize support for implementation of the investment promotion regime for least developed countries and graduated countries, and to submit the study and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-eighth session.

262. We will incentivize additional financing and investment, including grants, guarantees and blended finance, in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and facilitate efforts to channel long-term sustainable investment to least developed countries. We commit to helping least developed countries to benefit from sustainable financing sources and strengthen their regulatory and policy environments, and to supporting existing initiatives to develop pipelines of investable projects and use risk-sharing mechanisms to incentivize private investment and mobilize international capital, where applicable.

**Debt sustainability and debt cancellation initiative through improved and transparent debt architecture**

263. We note with concern that the stock of debt and debt service payment obligations of least developed countries increased significantly over the past decade. Total debt service increased from an average of 5 per cent of exports of goods and services in 2011 to 13 per cent in 2019. As of February 2021, 4 least developed countries were classified as in debt distress, while the number of least developed countries at high risk of debt distress increased to 16. Over the past decade, the composition of debt of least developed countries changed considerably towards less concessional finance. We welcome the measures adopted in 2020 by the Group of 20 and the Paris Club, namely, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, to facilitate higher COVID-19 pandemic-related spending and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex, para. 46.

the Debt Service Suspension Initiative to facilitate timely and orderly debt treatment on a case-by-case basis with broad participation of all creditors, on comparable terms, including the private sector, in line with the comparability of treatment principle.

#### *Target*

- Address the debt distress of least developed countries by 2025 and provide coordinated and appropriate debt solutions in a timely manner to all least developed countries that face debt vulnerabilities or are in debt distress, in order to work towards sustainable debt levels in all least developed countries.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

264. We commit to assisting least developed countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability and coordinated policies aimed at fostering adequate debt financing, debt relief, when appropriate, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, and ensuring that debt relief does not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for least developed countries.

265. We encourage IMF to conduct in-depth reviews of least developed countries' external debt, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on least developed countries' debt servicing capacity and possible policy options at the national and international levels to effectively address the external debt problem of least developed countries.

266. We commit to continuing to enhance efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in least developed countries to enhance sustainable upstream and downstream debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and by supporting legal advice in relation to addressing external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors, notably through the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained.

267. We invite official creditors, including international financial institutions, to consider exploring the inclusion of State-contingent clauses in public debt contracts to enable standstills in times of crisis and to provide an example for private markets, including through granting a suspension of debt service.

268. We invite creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of debt instruments, such as debt swap initiatives, for sustainable development and climate action.

#### **Remittances**

269. We note that remittances to least developed countries increased significantly over the past decade but declined in 2020 owing to COVID-19. At the same time, costs of remittances to least developed countries have remained disproportionately high.

#### *Targets*

- By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrants' remittances.
- Eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

270. We commit to working to improve access to and the use and quality of financial services to lower the cost of remittances to least developed countries and welcome international action, such as the Global Forum on Remittances and Development led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, with the objective of improving the flow and reducing the cost of remittances.

271. We commit to providing accessible information on remittance transfer costs, including foreign exchange margins, by provider and channel, such as through comparison websites, in order to increase transparency and competition in the remittance transfer market and promote the financial literacy and inclusion of migrants and their families through education and training.

272. We decide to support incentive programmes to ensure that remittances are used for long-term investment in productive capacity-building in least developed countries, such as micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and ensure that women and men are engaged as equal partners and beneficiaries. We will also support efforts to more easily link remittances to other financial services such as savings, credit, insurance and pensions, all of which can expand financial health and strengthen resilience to shocks and setbacks for migrants and their families.

**Extension of international support measures to graduating and graduated least developed countries to make graduation sustainable and irreversible**

273. We note with appreciation that 4 countries have graduated since 2011, another 4 have been designated to graduate by 2024 and 12 others have met the graduation criteria at least once. However, most graduating least developed countries face a multitude of challenges, including poverty and inequalities, in particular gender inequality, inadequate structural transformation and productive capacity, and vulnerability to economic and climatic shocks. Furthermore, we are concerned by the simultaneous loss of least developed country-specific support measures compounded by the negative social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

274. We further note that the Committee for Development Policy has found that a five-year preparatory period is necessary for all countries recommended for graduation at the 2021 triennial review to effectively prepare for a smooth transition, given that these countries will need to prepare for graduation while planning for a post-COVID-19 recovery and implementing policies and strategies to reverse the economic and social damages incurred as a result of the COVID-19 shock.

275. We encourage the Committee for Development Policy to continue to engage with graduating countries and countries recently graduated from the least developed country category so that the full extent of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 are understood, in line with the work of the Committee on sustainable development and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

276. We aim to ensure an incentive-based international support structure to graduating and graduated least developed countries, including support for their smooth transition from development and trading partners, as well as the United Nations system, to make graduation sustainable and ensure post-graduation development momentum and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Targets*

- Enable 15 additional least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031.

- Improve the scope, where necessary, and use of smooth transition measures and incentives for all graduating least developed countries.
- Provide specific support measures to recently graduated countries for making the graduation sustainable and irreversible.

**We commit to taking the following actions:**

277. We emphasize that a successful transition out of the least developed country category needs to be based on a national smooth transition strategy, formulated by each graduating country. We urge development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue their support for the implementation of smooth transition strategies so as to avoid any abrupt reductions in either ODA, special and differential treatments, Aid for Trade or other technical and financial assistance. This includes the need for improved planning and coordination of transition finance by ODA providers during both the preparatory period and the post-graduation phase.

278. We reiterate our conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed. We welcome that the United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions reduced abruptly. We invite development and trading partners to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction. We note that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at WTO, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category, and seek to further examine these issues. We call upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges.

279. We encourage the least developed countries and development partners to integrate graduation and smooth transition strategies into their national development and aid strategies, as appropriate, including capacity-building and technical assistance to diversify sources of financing, including blended finance and private finance.

280. We recognize that graduating countries face major challenges in addressing the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and of disasters and encourage the integration of disaster risk reduction into the smooth transition strategies of graduating countries in order to promote the sustainability of development progress, including the impact assessment of the likely consequences of graduation and the vulnerability profiles.

281. We recognize the need for enhanced support to countries before and after graduation, through appropriate, predictable, additional and demand-driven incentives and support measures, including in the following areas:

(a) Technical assistance in preparing and implementing a smooth transition strategy, including capacity development and technical assistance in the analysis and identification of support needs;

(b) Legal assistance to negotiate market access after trade preferences that are granted on the basis of least developed countries status end;

(c) Availability of credit ratings and risk management measures, including through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency;

(d) Technical assistance to negotiate market access after trade preferences that are granted based on least developed countries status end;

(e) Technical assistance to build and strengthen intellectual property rights systems of least developed countries to enable them to comply with obligations related to intellectual property after graduation;

(f) Consider extending access to dedicated funds for addressing adverse impacts of climate change and vertical funds such as the Gavi Alliance, Aid for Trade and Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries for graduated countries for a fixed period and in a predictable manner.

282. We welcome the work of the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to provide strengthened and coordinated United Nations system-wide support to the countries graduating from the least developed country category and invite the Office to advocate for appropriate predictable and additional incentives and support measures for graduating and recently graduated countries and to mobilize additional international support for the implementation of the smooth transition strategies. We invite all relevant United Nations entities to collaborate under the inter-agency task force and develop operational guidelines for their support to least developed countries, including assistance to graduating countries.

283. We welcome the establishment of a Sustainable Graduation Support Facility by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as Chair of the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the secretariat for the Committee for Development Policy, as a concrete, country-led solution of dedicated capacity development support. We call upon Member States to support this initiative in order to further strengthen coordinated and coherent United Nations system support and bring together country-specific integrated graduation-related advisory and capacity-building services responding to the concerns of Member States regarding graduation and serving as a repository and clearinghouse of initiatives and projects pursued in support of these countries.

284. We call for a monitoring mechanism that is responsive to emerging crises and that better links monitoring to specific support, including possible extensions of the preparatory period. Enhanced monitoring by the Committee for Development Policy should include the following:

(a) Establishing a crisis response process within the monitoring mechanism to react to crises and emergencies occurring during the annual monitoring cycle;

(b) Mobilizing the existing crisis management expertise of the United Nations system and other international entities, utilizing the convening power of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, both in case of crisis and regular monitoring;

(c) Expanding coverage of annual monitoring reports and the preparation process.

285. We call upon the Committee for Development Policy to continue due consultations with least developed countries and countries recently graduated from

the least developed country category while conducting the triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries and monitoring the countries that are graduating and have graduated from the list of least developed countries, and request the Committee to include in these consultations those least developed countries whose graduation may have been deferred.

#### **Availability and use of data**

286. We note with concern that many least developed countries lack quality data to measure and track progress in the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. The average statistical capacity indicator score increased from 56.4 in 2011 to 58.0 in 2019 but remains below the world average of 64. The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated vividly how crucial reliable data are for policymaking. Inclusive data are required to understand the differential impacts of the pandemic and address its economic and social effects, especially for people in vulnerable situations.

#### *Target*

- Significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data.

#### **We commit to taking the following actions:**

287. We commit to further strengthening traditional data sources, such as surveys and administrative records, complemented by new sources, and continuing to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data for improved monitoring and policymaking to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Doha Programme of Action.

288. We commit to providing financial support, equipment and infrastructure and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of national statistical offices, monitor policies of least developed countries and fill data gaps with responsible, open and inclusive data that take into account diversity in programming. In this regard, we recognize that modernizing population data systems, through improving civil registration and vital statistics systems and geospatial information sources, must be a priority to prepare for future disasters and make progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Implementation, follow-up and monitoring**

289. Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms adapted at the national, subregional, regional and global levels are crucial for the successful implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and are fully aligned with existing frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals. National, regional and global mechanisms should be mutually complementary and reinforcing. Necessary steps will be taken to ensure the mutual accountability of least developed countries and their development partners for delivering on their commitments undertaken under the Doha Programme of Action.

290. National-level arrangements are particularly important, given that the Doha Programme of Action is owned and led by the least developed countries themselves. At the national level, each least developed country Government should develop an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Doha Programme of Action and integrate the provisions of the Programme of Action into its national policies and development and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and conduct regular country-led and country-driven reviews, with the full

involvement of all key stakeholders. Existing country-level review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the existing consultative mechanisms, should be broadened to cover the review of the Doha Programme of Action and extended to all least developed countries. National parliaments and other institutions can also support these processes.

291. We call upon the entities of the United Nations development system to actively support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, in close cooperation and partnership with the World Bank Group and the international financial and development institutions, and to integrate the Programme of Action into their strategic plans and annual work programmes and reporting at all levels. We also call upon the entities of the United Nations development system to support the resident coordinators in the least developed countries and to assist them in the mainstreaming of the Doha Programme of Action into development planning at the country level in a coordinated and cohesive manner.

292. We invite resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, IMF and other multilateral institutions, to continue to collaborate with and provide support to national follow-up and monitoring.

293. In line with the principles of development cooperation effectiveness, development partners should support agreed objectives and policies designed by least developed countries on the basis of the Doha Programme of Action that are integrated into existing national development and cooperation frameworks. They should monitor the delivery of their commitments and consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any.

294. At the regional level, the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in close coordination and cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations. Inclusive regional processes will draw on national reviews and contribute to follow up and review at the global level. The relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should continue to ensure that the needs and challenges of least developed countries are addressed as part of their ongoing work.

295. At the global level, the implementation and monitoring mechanisms established after the Istanbul Programme of Action should be strengthened and improved with a view to ensuring timely and effective follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, including through better stocktaking of policies and measures at the national, regional and sectoral levels; improved substantive support for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the global level; systematic monitoring of relevant developments in other intergovernmental processes and action by the United Nations system organizations and inter-agency processes; and structured support for follow-up from the least developed countries themselves. The General Assembly should continue to monitor the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on an annual basis under the specific item on its agenda. Effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences, processes and frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



296. We invite the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to devote adequate time to discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing the least developed countries in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.

297. The Economic and Social Council is invited to continue to include periodically an agenda item during its annual substantive session on the review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. Periodic reviews of progress made and constraints confronted by least developed countries should be conducted by the Council to allow for focused interaction. The Development Cooperation Forum should continue to review trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, including for least developed countries and graduated countries. These will be supported by reviews by the Council's functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.

298. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should conduct annual reviews of the progress made in the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

299. We invite the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank Group, IMF and other international financial institutions, as well as WTO, to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates. These organizations are invited to participate fully in reviews of the Doha Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

300. The Secretary-General is requested to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the United Nations Development Group, should be broadly utilized and the Inter-agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries should be kept active in this regard.

301. We welcome the work of the Inter-agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, invite CEB and the High-level Committee on Programmes to support the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and also invite the Secretary-General, in his capacity as CEB Chair, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board. We invite all relevant United Nations entities to collaborate under the Inter-agency Consultative Group to develop operational guidelines for their support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

302. We invite the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to prepare a comprehensive road map for the accelerated implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, identifying specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, with a view to ensuring that the commitments in favour of least developed countries lead to concrete deliverables that would facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action and help least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

303. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should strengthen its functions to undertake the following:

(a) Assist the Secretary-General in the systematic and effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, including through the use of data, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels aligned with the 2030 Agenda;

(b) Assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for least developed countries;

(c) Strengthen its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of least developed countries, in partnership with the relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations;

(d) Undertake research and analytical works to provide substantive support to least developed countries in group consultations and in their participation in other intergovernmental meetings and conferences, in order to facilitate science- and evidence-based decisions in favour of least developed countries, taking into account new and emerging challenges and opportunities; to support the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and CEB as they relate to least developed countries; and to foster debate and innovative thinking, promote consensus on ways forward and coordinate efforts to achieve the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

304. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will continue to be responsible for coordinated substantive support to the global review of the Doha Programme of Action, including through the following:

(a) Following up on action taken at the national level based on input from Governments, United Nations system agencies, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

(b) Monitoring sectoral policy developments at the intergovernmental processes of relevant international and regional organizations;

(c) Maintaining substantive contact with United Nations system organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations, as well as resident coordinators in least developed countries;

(d) Assisting the Secretary-General in his efforts in support of least developed countries;

(e) Supporting follow-up by least developed countries at the global and sectoral levels.

305. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will continue to monitor international policy developments of relevance to least developed countries, including the outcomes of major global conferences, and carry out relevant advocacy efforts aimed at the effective and timely implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

306. We note the network of national focal points of least developed countries established by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed

Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the convening of meetings of the national focal points on a regular basis. We also note that the national focal points designated by the least developed countries are heavily involved in the localization of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their national implementation, monitoring, review and reporting of the Programme of Action. We invite the Office of the High Representative to further strengthen the network of national focal points of least developed countries and convene annual meetings of the focal points to share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action and Sustainable Development Goals into national development processes, as well as their implementation and follow-up; network among peers; and better understand existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models.

307. With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and strengthening its capabilities and effectiveness to support the least developed countries, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries, we request the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and to submit it with recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-seventh session.

308. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should continue to address the challenges faced by least developed countries through the conduct of intergovernmental consensus-building, especially through the Trade and Development Board, and to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, including through its technical assistance to least developed countries. The institutional capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the research and analysis of least developed country issues should be maintained to this end.

309. The General Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in 2026. The Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding, in 2031, a sixth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action.



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**Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda item 21 (a)

**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on  
14 December 2022***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/77/446/Add.1, para. 8)]***77/177. Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries***The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted during the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 17 March 2022, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

*Recalling also* the progress achieved in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,<sup>1</sup> as well as where it fell short of achieving desired progress in the set goals and targets,

*Affirming* that the Doha Programme of Action is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners grounded in the overarching goals of achieving rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, strengthening labour markets by promoting the transition from informal to formal employment, enabling graduation from the least developed country category, facilitating access to sustainable and innovative financing, addressing inequalities, within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation, mainstreaming technology-driven entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.*



and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

*Affirming also* that the Doha Programme of Action is grounded in six focus areas:

- (a) Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind,
  - (b) Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,
  - (c) Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity,
  - (d) Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration,
  - (e) Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development,
  - (f) Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation,
- and in the commitments and targets contained therein,

*Affirming further* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>2</sup> and international human rights treaties, and emphasizing the importance of fundamental freedoms for all,

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>4</sup> the Paris Agreement,<sup>5</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>6</sup> and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>7</sup>

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, taking note with appreciation of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in Glasgow, in partnership with the Government of Italy, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, and also taking note with appreciation of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/216](#) of 17 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its decision 76/551 of 20 January 2022 on the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its resolutions [76/251](#) of 28 February 2022 on the further modalities of the Fifth Conference and [76/258](#) on the Doha Programme of Action,

*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/19](#) of 22 July 2022 on the programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2022–2031,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

*Recalling also* its resolution [76/222](#) of 17 December 2021 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling further* the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, and the adoption of its ministerial declaration, as well as the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, at which the Bridgetown Covenant was adopted,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 and [76/175](#) of 16 December 2021 on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Recognizing* that the least developed countries have been severely hit by the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic owing to the fragility of their health systems, limited access to vaccines, test-to-treat and diagnosis, and the slow pace of vaccinations, limited fiscal space, limited coverage of their social protection systems, limited financial and other resources, and vulnerability to external shocks,

*Recognizing also* that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the adverse impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution and other environmental degradation aspects, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts with widespread effects on people, planet, prosperity and peace affect the situation of food security, energy security, extreme poverty and inequality, global trade and market

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/77/3)*, chap. VI, sect. D.

<sup>9</sup> [TD/541/Add.2](#).

stability, which put the very viability of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 at great risk,

*Recognizing further* the contributions of migrants in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in both their countries of origin and destination, noting with concern the significant socioeconomic consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on migrant workers and refugees from the least developed countries, including those in the low-wage informal economy, and noting with concern that the prospects of upward growth rate of remittances are likely to moderate in 2022 in many countries, highlighting that promoting faster, safer and cheaper remittances and reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances will have positive impacts on the millions of people who depend heavily on them,

*Taking note* of the 2022 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,<sup>10</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries<sup>11</sup> and on food insecurity in the least developed countries: options for a system of stockholding and complementary means at global, regional and subregional levels;<sup>12</sup>

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to take action to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>13</sup> including by developing an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Programme of Action and integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders;

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country-level review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the existing consultative mechanisms, to cover the review of the Doha Programme of Action and extend them to all least developed countries;

4. *Calls upon* development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Doha Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other international

<sup>10</sup> [A/77/534](#), annex.

<sup>11</sup> [A/77/73-E/2022/53](#).

<sup>12</sup> [A/77/291](#).

<sup>13</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

financial institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates, and invites those organizations to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board;

7. *Expresses deep concern* at the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the least developed countries, takes note of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on COVID-19<sup>14</sup> and commits to supporting its implementation, as appropriate, and invites development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders to support the least developed countries in their recovery efforts and continued implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, further highlighting the need for greater collaboration and partnerships at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the fulfilments of the least developed country-specific targets, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda;

8. *Notes with concern* the estimates that by 2030 much of the world's poor will live in the least developed countries, which indicate that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is not on track, stresses the need for global support for the least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind, and further recognizes the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law, increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, reducing inequalities, protecting and promoting human rights, reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

9. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, as well as recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating situation of food security, lack of access to finance and energy, and increased poverty, that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

10. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, especially the least developed countries, are faced with significantly higher borrowing costs to finance the response to COVID-19, leading to a greater finance divide that can undermine the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

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<sup>14</sup> See [A/74/843](#).



11. *Also recognizes* that significant additional domestic public and private resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance and foreign direct investment, as appropriate, will be critical for the realization of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resources mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership;

12. *Welcomes* the commitment of development partners to ensuring the fulfilment of all their respective ODA commitments to the least developed countries, ensuring the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national priorities and increasing the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national systems and procedures, also welcomes the decision by the European Union by which it reaffirms its collective commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertakes to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to the least developed countries, is encouraged by those that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries and calls upon the development partners to continue their development assistance to the least developed countries in their efforts to overcome ongoing crises;

13. *Also welcomes* the global ambition to voluntarily channel \$100 billion of special drawing rights to developing and least developing countries, calls upon Member States with strong external positions to consider the voluntary channelling of special drawing rights to countries in need, particularly to the least developed countries, in a timely manner, including through the International Monetary Fund Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, welcomes the operationalization of the International Monetary Fund Resilience and Sustainability Trust as a new mechanism to voluntarily channel special drawing rights to provide affordable long-term financing to the least developed countries and other vulnerable countries, with due consideration to national legal frameworks, and also welcomes the ongoing exploration of viable options to voluntarily channel special drawing rights through multilateral development banks;

14. *Notes with concern* that the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient to respond to worsening climate change impacts in developing country parties and recognizes the importance of the adequacy and predictability of adaptation finance, welcomes that the parties<sup>15</sup> urged developed country parties to urgently and significantly scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation so as to respond to the needs of developing country parties as part of a global effort, including for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, also recognizes that many least developed countries face challenges in gaining direct access to international public finance owing to a lack of technical capacity, supports the provision of assistance to least developed countries in preparing bankable projects and creating enabling environments, and encourages further efforts to enhance access to finance;

15. *Welcomes* that the parties<sup>16</sup> urged developed country parties to deliver in full on the \$100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasizes the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges, also welcomes that they urged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention,

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<sup>15</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investment in climate action, and calls for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;

16. *Underlines* the need for reinforcing the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures, including comprehensive disaster risk financing strategies for the least developed countries aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a key instrument to build resilience against and mitigate the impacts of various shocks, and the commitment to making the best use of existing initiatives, takes note of the call by the Secretary-General to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years, and invites the Secretary-General to undertake, with the least developed countries, a comprehensive study involving all relevant United Nations development system entities and other relevant stakeholders on the existing arrangements, lessons learned and gaps identified and to submit it to the General Assembly for further consideration;

17. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

18. *Underlines* the importance of promoting an enabling business environment conducive to growth and development, the absence of corruption, a transparent and rules-based regulatory framework, simplifying business regulations and processes, reducing and streamlining administrative formalities, creating efficient national support mechanisms for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, improving supply chains, facilitating access to markets, reinforcing cooperation, building capacities to implement effective competition policies, and adopting open, transparent and clear regulatory frameworks for business and investment, with protection for property rights and land rights as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and consistent with international legal frameworks;

19. *Welcomes* the convening of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, and the adoption of its ministerial declaration;

20. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid for trade, reiterates its commitment to increasing aid-for-trade support, in particular for the least developed countries, striving to allocate an increasing proportion of aid for trade to the least developed countries, in accordance with development cooperation effectiveness principles, welcomes additional cooperation among developing countries to that end, and encourages the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans;

21. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy, water, sanitation and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions and predictable financing, thereby maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

22. *Notes* the importance of the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in promoting networking among researchers and research institutions, helping such countries to access and utilize critical technologies on mutually agreed terms, drawing together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector, and implementing projects contributing to the use of science, technology and innovation for economic development in the least developed countries, recalls with appreciation the contributions that Bangladesh, Guinea, India, Norway and Türkiye have made, as well as the pledges made by the Sudan, and welcomes the preparations of the Bank to establish a joint project known as the Technology Makers Lab in the least developed countries, focusing on youth empowerment, capacity-building and skills development;

23. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries are especially vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and other disasters, and recognizes the high importance of building resilience in the least developed countries through stepped-up capacity-building and finance for adaptation to climate change;

24. *Recalls* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and reaffirms that disaster-prone developing countries need particular attention in view of their high vulnerability and exposure to adverse climate change impacts, recognizes that the development and implementation of risk-informed plans, policies, programmes and investments are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, also recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to wider, growing risks, notes with serious concern the stark warnings contained in the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and notes that the Sendai Framework provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner, further recognizes the health aspects of the Sendai Framework, and stresses the need for resilient health systems;

25. *Recognizes* that the global level of food insecurity and its magnitude, complexity and multidimensional nature in the least developed countries calls for an array of responses employing all appropriate tools;

26. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including with regard to a food import financing facility, a credit guarantee facility and a special food reserve system, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of voluntary contributions, to carry out a study, with secretariat support provided by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in consultation with all relevant United Nations entities and taking into consideration and building upon the existing initiatives and programmes on food security, taking into account World Trade Organization members' existing obligations, in order to further assess the proposed recommendations for the least developed countries, outlining their modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures, and to submit a report with his recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for consideration by the Member States;

27. *Recognizes* that particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy equal access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels, inclusive of early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training, notes with concern, in this regard, the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education, particularly for girls, recognizes the need to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, institutes of higher education to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from the least

developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics, and to strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the global, regional and national levels, and also recognizes that the least developed countries have the most to gain from sustainable development and utilizing the full skills and talents of their people, including women and girls;

28. *Recommits* to undertake feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and postgraduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the least developed countries and recently graduated countries with a view to, inter alia, providing policy support to promote distance education and open learning for graduate and postgraduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ensuring a 50/50 gender balance at all levels while guaranteeing special access for the poorest and people in vulnerable situations, creating a virtual network of educational institutions within and beyond the least developed countries, assisting in course design and curriculum development, and leading to scale and sustainability of the education system, taking into account all pre-existing initiatives developed by the relevant partners in a comprehensive manner, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration;

29. *Recognizes* that increasing participation, supporting the empowerment of women, youth and civil society, and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

30. *Notes* the Transforming Education Summit convened and organized under the auspices of the Secretary-General in New York on 19 September 2022;

31. *Supports* the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a focal point for the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation, also supports the Technology Bank in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries for structural transformation and productive capacity development, invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness, and decides to strengthen collaboration among Governments, the private sector and academia to advance science, technology and innovation research and development, build inclusive digital economies and bridge the digital divide, including by facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

32. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, reiterates the decision<sup>17</sup> to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support for investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities, improving enabling environments, and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of establishing an international investment support centre for the least developed countries in the form of a one-stop shop to mobilize support for the implementation of the investment promotion regime

<sup>17</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 46.

for the least developed countries and graduated countries, and to submit the study and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-eighth session;

33. *Also reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all people is essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

34. *Congratulates* those countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that 4 countries have graduated since 2011, another 4 have been designated to graduate by 2024 and 12 others have met the graduation criteria at least once, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

35. *Invites* the least developed countries and development partners to integrate graduation and smooth transition strategies into their respective national development and aid strategies, as appropriate, including capacity-building and technical assistance to diversify sources of financing, takes note of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development policy brief No. 99 entitled “Strategy for graduation with momentum: bridging pre-graduation and post-graduation development processes in the least developed countries” of April 2022, and welcomes the establishment of a Sustainable Graduation Support Facility as a concrete, country-led solution of dedicated capacity-development support, while calling upon Member States to support this initiative;

36. *Reiterates its conviction* that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed, welcomes the fact that the United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions reduced abruptly, invites development and trading partners to consider extending to graduated countries trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction, notes that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at the World Trade Organization, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category and seeks to further examine these issues, and calls upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries so as to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

37. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing, inter alia, the target of enabling 15 additional least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031;

38. *Also recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to undertake research and analytical work, monitor sectoral policy developments at the level of intergovernmental processes, follow up on actions taken at the national level, further

strengthen the network of national focal points of least developed countries, develop operational guidelines for United Nations entities support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and support the graduating and graduated countries have increased;

39. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and extending effective support to the least developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for the year 2024;

40. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums and the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

41. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha, notes the substantive and organizational preparations for the Conference, to be held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023, at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in General Assembly resolutions [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/232 A](#) of 19 December 2019, [74/232 B](#) of 11 August 2020, [75/227](#) of 21 December 2020 and [76/216](#) of 17 December 2021, urges all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the preparatory process, and looks forward to its successful and ambitious outcome;

42. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Secretary-General to convene a United Nations system high-level event during the Conference, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the least developed countries;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its programme of action, objectives, key deliverables and significance;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Doha Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries”.

*53rd plenary meeting  
14 December 2022*



# General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session  
Agenda item 22 (b)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2014

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.28)]

### 69/137. Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/214 of 22 December 2011, in which it decided to convene the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2014, as well as its resolutions 67/222 of 21 December 2012, 68/225 of 20 December 2013 and 68/270 of 23 April 2014,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna, from 3 to 5 November 2014, and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present resolution.

*71st plenary meeting  
12 December 2014*

### Annex I

#### Vienna Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of the States gathered here in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014 to participate in the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

*Having adopted* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,

*Declare* that:

1. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of



landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints;

2. We express our sincere appreciation for the constant efforts undertaken by the Government of Zambia in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries;

3. We express our profound appreciation to the Government of Austria as well as the City of Vienna and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

## **Annex II**

### **Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Thirty-two landlocked developing countries situated in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, with a population of about 440 million, face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. Their international trade depends on transit through other countries. Additional border crossings and long distances from major markets, coupled with cumbersome transit procedures and inadequate infrastructure, substantially increase the total expenses for transport and other transaction costs, which erodes the competitive edge of landlocked developing countries, reduces economic growth and subsequently negatively affects their capacity to promote sustained economic development, human and social progress and environmental sustainability. Landlockedness is a major contributor to the relatively high incidence of extreme poverty and structural constraints in landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries, as a group, are among the poorest of developing countries, and many of them are also least developed countries, with limited capacities and dependence on a very limited number of commodities for their export earnings.

2. In most cases, the transit neighbours of landlocked developing countries are themselves developing countries, often with broadly similar economic structures and beset by similar scarcities of resources. The least developed transit countries are in an especially difficult situation. Furthermore, transit developing countries bear additional burdens, deriving from transit transport and its financial, infrastructural and social impacts. Transit developing countries are themselves in need of improvement of the technical and administrative arrangements of their transport and customs and administrative systems, to which their landlocked neighbours are expected to link.

3. The Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted in 2003,<sup>1</sup> reflected the strong commitment of all actors to address the special development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and to

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*



promote their full and more effective integration into the global economy through the implementation of specific actions in the priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, international support measures and implementation and review.

4. There has been increased visibility and recognition of landlocked developing countries and their special needs at the international level, including at the United Nations. The international community has recognized the need to address the special challenges of landlocked developing countries in the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit<sup>2</sup> and other high-level meetings on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, entitled “The future we want”.<sup>3</sup> Although there has been some progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action during the review period, there is a need for further global support for landlocked developing countries, including in the areas of financial and technical assistance, as they have a long way to go to fully benefit from globalization and to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication, employment generation and structural transformation.

5. There is therefore an urgent need for an innovative, holistic and results-oriented 10-year programme of action, based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth. The special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries are recognized, and there is a need to give appropriate consideration to landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

## **II. Review and assessment of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action**

6. Economic growth has been somewhat accelerated in landlocked developing countries: since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries have achieved moderate economic growth. The gross domestic product growth rate for landlocked developing countries is estimated to have increased from 4.5 per cent in 2003 to 6.3 per cent in 2013.<sup>4</sup> However, there are wide disparities among landlocked developing countries, with many of them showing high vulnerability to external shocks. High economic growth has not translated into a speedy reduction of extreme poverty. Per capita gross domestic product in two thirds of landlocked developing countries is still well below \$1,000.<sup>5</sup> Despite some progress in social development, half of the landlocked developing countries are still in the lowest ranks of the human development index, and there is still widespread poverty, high levels of food insecurity, high levels of child and maternal mortality and poor sanitation in many landlocked developing countries.

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates provided by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, using data from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

<sup>5</sup> A/69/170, para. 10.

7. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries have initiated important policy reforms to address physical and non-physical aspects of transit transport. Landlocked developing countries have increased the harmonization of transport and transit policies, laws, procedures and practices with transit countries. A number of regional and subregional transit facilitation agreements have been concluded and adopted for implementation. Some landlocked developing countries and transit countries, through regional trade agreements, free trade areas and customs unions, have developed supportive institutional frameworks, such as transport and trade facilitation bodies or coordination committees, and road funds. Border facilities and procedures have been streamlined and harmonized, leading to increased efficiency and fewer delays. Yet there is a need to deepen the reforms, enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that the achievements reached are sustained.

8. High transport and trade transaction costs remain a major stumbling block in the pursuit of landlocked developing countries to achieve their trade potential. Although the estimated time that landlocked developing countries take to import goods has decreased from 57 days in 2006 to 47 days in 2014 and to export from 49 to 42 days, that is still almost twice the time taken by transit countries.<sup>6</sup> The average cost of exporting a container for landlocked developing countries is estimated at \$3,204, compared with \$1,268 for transit countries, and \$3,884 compared with \$1,434 for importing a container.<sup>6</sup> The establishment of a secure, reliable and efficient transit transport system remains critical for landlocked developing countries to enable them to reduce transport costs and enhance the competitiveness of their exports to regional and global markets. Landlockedness, thus, has an enormous negative impact on the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is estimated that the level of development in landlocked developing countries is, on average, 20 per cent lower than what it would be were they not landlocked.<sup>7</sup>

9. There have been progressive efforts to develop and upgrade road and rail infrastructure and to provide maintenance for the existing infrastructure at the national, subregional and regional levels. Dry ports and one-stop border crossings are being established in all regions. Despite such progress, the development of physical infrastructure is still inadequate, posing a major obstacle to the ability of landlocked developing countries to utilize their full trade potential. With regard to air transport, cargo airfreight has increased in some landlocked developing countries, and the number of registered flight carrier departures in landlocked developing countries as a group increased from an estimated 200,000 in 2003 to about 362,800 in 2013.<sup>8</sup> The major challenges faced by landlocked developing countries with regard to the air transport industry include the enormous resources required for infrastructure investment and the maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of aged fleets. This limits the shipment by air of goods of high unit value or of a time-sensitive nature, such as documents, pharmaceuticals, fashion garments, electronic consumer goods and perishable agricultural and seafood products.

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<sup>6</sup> See World Bank, 2013, *Doing Business 2014: Understanding Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises*.

<sup>7</sup> “The development economics of landlockedness”, study prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, 2013.

<sup>8</sup> World Bank data.

10. Despite some progress, landlocked developing countries lag behind other developing countries in terms of their telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband Internet access, which can play a crucial role in increasing connectivity, boosting the competitiveness of enterprises and facilitating international trade.

11. Owing, in large part, to an increase in world commodity prices, total merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated \$44 billion in 2003 to \$228 billion in 2013. Imports have also increased to some extent. Although the global share of merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries has doubled in the last decade, they still account for a very low proportion, about 1.2 per cent, of such exports.<sup>9</sup>

12. Furthermore, many landlocked developing countries rely heavily on a few mineral resources and low-value agricultural products for their exports to a limited number of markets,<sup>10</sup> making them highly vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility. The problem is further exacerbated by their low productive capacities and structural weaknesses, which limit the adding of meaningful value to their exports and the diversification of their exports and markets.

13. Official development assistance disbursements to landlocked developing countries more than doubled between 2003 and 2012, from an estimated \$12.2 billion to \$25.9 billion.<sup>11</sup> Official development assistance accounts for more than 20 per cent of central Government expenditure in 16 landlocked developing countries.<sup>8</sup> Aid-for-trade disbursements to landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated \$3.5 billion in 2006 to over \$5.9 billion in 2012.<sup>11</sup> Aid for trade has helped to improve trade facilitation and trade-related infrastructure development.

14. While there has been some integration of the Almaty Programme of Action into the national development strategies of landlocked developing countries, there is a need for its better integration into development strategies at the national, regional and global levels.

15. While climate change was not part of the review of the Almaty Programme of Action, it remains true that landlocked developing countries are also vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation. Landlocked developing countries remain disproportionately affected by, inter alia, desertification, land degradation and drought as an estimated 54 per cent of their land is classified as dryland.<sup>12</sup> Of the 29 countries in which at least 20 per cent of the population is estimated to live on degraded land, 14 are landlocked developing countries.<sup>13</sup> Some landlocked developing countries are also affected by flooding, including glacial lake outburst floods. Landlocked developing countries also remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community.

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<sup>9</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, annual statistics on the values and shares of merchandise exports and imports, 1948–2013 (see <http://unctadstat.unctad.org>).

<sup>10</sup> See A/68/157.

<sup>11</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Development Statistics (see [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.htm)).

<sup>12</sup> Calculated from Global Environment Outlook data, United Nations Environment Programme (see [www.unep.org/geo](http://www.unep.org/geo)).

<sup>13</sup> A/67/210, para. 8.

### III. Renewed and strengthened partnerships for development

16. The present Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and their development partners. Strengthened partnerships within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sector actors, are also essential.

17. Partnerships between landlocked developing countries and transit countries is mutually beneficial for the improvement and constant maintenance of their infrastructure connectivity and of technical and administrative arrangements in their transport, customs and logistic systems. Efficient transit transport systems, strong collaborative efforts in multimodal transport infrastructure development and interlinkage, the promotion of an enabling legal environment and institutional arrangements and strong national leadership on cooperative arrangements between landlocked developing countries and transit countries are also crucial for achieving structural transformation and sustainable economic growth and development. Transparency, good governance and efficient institutional arrangements in landlocked developing countries and transit countries should also play a very important role in promoting such partnerships. Collaboration must be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit countries.

18. Renewed and strengthened partnerships with development partners will be crucial for the full and successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, given the immensity of the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. The international community, including financial and development institutions, multilateral organizations and agencies and donor countries, is encouraged to provide financial and technical support, as appropriate, to advance the specific objectives listed herein. Regional and subregional cooperation or integration should also play an important role in successfully addressing the specific problems of landlocked developing countries.

19. Support from developing countries should take into full consideration the nature of South-South cooperation, in accordance with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.<sup>14</sup> Guided by the spirit of solidarity with landlocked developing countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide financial and technical support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

20. The private sector and civil society are important stakeholders, whose contribution will be critical to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships.

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution 64/222, annex.

#### IV. Objectives

21. The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus to contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty. Particular attention should therefore be given in the period until 2024 to the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help to transform landlocked countries into land-linked countries.

22. The specific goals and objectives are:

(a) To promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport, on the basis of the freedom of transit, and other related measures, in accordance with applicable rules of international law;

(b) To reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through simplification and standardization of rules and regulations, so as to increase the competitiveness of exports of landlocked developing countries and reduce the costs of imports, thereby contributing to the promotion of rapid and inclusive economic development;

(c) To develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries;

(d) To effectively implement bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration;

(e) To promote growth and increased participation in global trade, through structural transformation related to enhanced productive capacity development, value addition, diversification and reduction of dependency on commodities;

(f) To enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries to address the needs and challenges arising from landlockedness in order to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

#### V. Priorities for action

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance:

(a) Transport infrastructure;

(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation:

(a) International trade;

(b) Trade facilitation.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation.

Priority 6: Means of implementation.

**Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues**

23. Freedom of transit and transit facilities play a key role in the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is important for those countries to have access to and from the sea, in accordance with applicable international law, in order to fully integrate into the global trading system.

24. Harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements. Bilateral provisions should be no less favourable than what is provided for in the international conventions standards and best practices. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation adopted by consensus at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, should further guide the work in this area. Cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution to cross-border trade and transit transport problems. This cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit developing countries. Effective participation of key stakeholders, both public and private, is important to improve transit facilitation. It is important to promote free movement of people between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours through the development and implementation of simplified and harmonized visa systems for drivers involved in international transport (freight and passengers).

25. Specific objectives are:

(a) To reduce travel time along corridors, with the aim of allowing transit cargo to move a distance of 300 to 400 kilometres every 24 hours;

(b) To significantly reduce the time spent at land borders;

(c) To significantly improve intermodal connectivity, with the aim of ensuring efficient transfers from rail to road and vice versa and from port to rail and/or road and vice versa.

26. Actions by the landlocked developing countries and transit countries are:

(a) To endeavour to accede to and ratify in a timely fashion relevant international, regional and subregional conventions and other legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation;

(b) To ensure effective implementation of international and regional conventions and bilateral agreements on transit transport and trade facilitation, as applicable, also with a view to reducing transport prices and time;

(c) To enhance coordination and cooperation of national agencies responsible for border and customs controls and procedures between them and with the respective agencies in transit countries. In this regard, transit countries are encouraged to share information with landlocked developing countries regarding any change in regulations and procedures governing transit policies as early as possible before their entry into force, in order to enable traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them;

(d) To create an effective bilateral or regional mechanism, as appropriate, to address challenges and bottlenecks in the implementation of bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements and to avoid maintaining, seeking or adopting bilateral or

regional arrangements establishing quotas or other quantitative restrictions to international transit;

(e) To promote the simplification, transparency and harmonization of legal and administrative regulations and requirements related to transit systems by all modes of transit transport, including border crossings, consular services, customs procedures and removal of internal checkpoints;

(f) To develop effective logistics systems by aligning incentives for efficient transport and transit operations, promoting competition and phasing out anti-competitive practices such as cartels and queuing systems wherever possible;

(g) To promote the involvement of road, rail and inland waterway transport business associations in public-private partnership projects, exchange knowledge and implement transit cooperation initiatives and practices that have worked well in various regions around the world;

(h) To collaborate on exchanging trade and transport data with a view to conducting cross-border transactions faster and more efficiently;

(i) All landlocked developing countries should formulate national transit policies and establish appropriate national mechanisms with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

27. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of international conventions and agreements relating to transit facilitation and initiatives that promote transit cooperation, reduce transit costs and establish smooth logistic arrangements;

(b) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries to establish multilateral sustainable and efficient transit transport regimes involving public and private stakeholders and to encourage and support the sharing of best practices related to experiences, policies and initiatives;

(c) To encourage regional and subregional organizations to assist with technical and financial support to the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement initiatives that promote transit cooperation.

## **Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance**

28. Infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries. The development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated in the global market.

### **(a) Transport infrastructure**

29. Despite improvement in transport infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, poor quality and gaps in physical infrastructure are still major obstacles to developing viable and predictable transit transport systems. There is inadequate physical infrastructure in rail transport, road transport, dry ports, inland waterways, pipelines and air transport in many landlocked developing countries, as well as few harmonized rules and procedures and limited cross-border investment and private-sector participation. The physical links of landlocked developing countries to

regional transport infrastructure networks fall well short of expectations. Landlocked developing countries have a lower logistics performance than other countries in the area of transport-related infrastructure. Missing links need to be addressed urgently, and roads, railways and inland waterways need to be upgraded to a level that can establish seamless and efficient transport infrastructure networks within the countries and across their borders. The improvement and maintenance of existing facilities is crucial. With regard to multimodal transport, railways are important for the landlocked developing countries whose exports are usually bulky primary commodities. Railway transport should be promoted where its use is viable and rail networks already exist.

30. The magnitude of the required resources to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge. It requires forging international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, allocating more from national budgets, effectively deploying international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening the role of the private sector. At the same time, it also requires a substantial investment in capacity-building and legal, regulatory and policy reform to create an environment supportive of greater public and private investments in infrastructure. It is important to help landlocked developing countries to develop the capacity to prepare bankable, large-scale infrastructure projects and to explore innovative financing mechanisms for those projects, including public-private partnerships, where appropriate.

31. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly increase the quality of roads, including increasing the share of paved roads, by nationally appropriate standards;

(b) To expand and upgrade the railway infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, where applicable;

(c) To complete missing links in the regional road and railway transit transport networks.

32. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive national policies for infrastructure development and maintenance, encompassing all modes of transportation, and to ensure that they are well coordinated with the transit countries in the areas where transit infrastructures intersect;

(b) To collaborate to promote sustainable and resilient transit systems through, inter alia, regular upgrading and maintenance, development of corridors along transit highways, developing border-crossing mechanisms, including one-stop border crossings, as appropriate, and promoting economies of scale for transport systems through intermodal transport development, dry ports or inland container depots, trans-shipment facilities and similar logistic hubs;

(c) To work towards the harmonization of gauges to facilitate regional connectivity, where feasible, the development of reloading capacities, the expansion of training programmes and inter-railway staff exchange programmes;

(d) To promote multilateral and regional permit systems for road transport and to endeavour to implement permit-free bilateral and transit road transport and the expansion of a multilateral quota system among landlocked developing countries and transit countries;



(e) To endeavour, at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels, to gradually liberalize road transport services, taking into account specific circumstances in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(f) To encourage the development of international logistic hubs;

(g) To develop the necessary policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development and promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment;

(h) To promote public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure and their sustainability;

(i) To develop inland transport networks, including ancillary infrastructure, such as all-weather road, rail and riverside support infrastructures that ensure road and rail safety and involve local businesses in those services along highways and railway networks, thereby creating development corridors along transit highways and railroads.

33. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries in the field of infrastructure development and maintenance and support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in sharing experiences on transit transport development;

(b) To encourage multilateral and regional development banks to provide more support to landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries for investment in transport development, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(c) To continue assisting landlocked developing countries in the completion of missing links in railroads and road systems, as appropriate.

**(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure**

34. Energy infrastructure and access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy and related technologies, on mutually agreed terms, are critically important for modernizing information and communications technology and transit systems, reducing delays and enhancing productive capacity to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The importance of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative is stressed. In this context, regional efforts, including the creation of networks of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency centres, will be important and need support.

35. Information and communications technology can contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth by: increasing productivity across all sectors; facilitating market expansion beyond borders to take advantage of economies of scale; and lowering costs and facilitating access to services, including access to broadband infrastructure and information via global media such as the Internet, thus contributing to increased participation in governance, accountability and transparency. However, many landlocked developing countries face severe challenges in keeping up with the necessary infrastructure deployment and concomitant evolution of policy frameworks. Broadband costs, as a share of gross national income, are much higher in landlocked developing countries than in coastal countries that are located close to submarine communications cables. Because of their small market sizes, the lack of a regionally harmonized regulatory environment is also a serious hindrance to cheaper

information and communications technology services and greater geographical coverage.

36. Specific objectives are:

- (a) To expand and upgrade, as appropriate, infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas;
- (b) All landlocked developing countries should make broadband policy universal;
- (c) To promote open and affordable access to the Internet for all;
- (d) Landlocked developing countries should actively engage to address the digital divide.

37. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

- (a) To enhance their collaboration in promoting cross-border energy trade and energy transit through transmission lines to third countries;
- (b) Landlocked developing countries should develop national energy policies to promote modern, reliable and renewable energy, with a view to significantly enhancing capacities in production, trade and distribution, with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all and the transformation of their economies;
- (c) To work together to modernize transit and transport facilities and customs and other border facilities by fully utilizing the capabilities of information and communications technologies;
- (d) To further improve and harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks;
- (e) Landlocked developing countries should develop a national broadband policy with a view to improving access to international high-capacity fibre-optic cables and high-bandwidth backbone networks;
- (f) Landlocked developing countries should strive to develop their service sectors through the development of information and communications technology infrastructures and their integration into all relevant areas to promote competitiveness, innovation and inclusion and in order to reduce transit time and cost and modernize their transit and customs facilities;
- (g) To promote digital bridges to interconnect national backbones so that countries far from the sea cables also have access to affordable broadband and are able to expand the telecommunications and related services sector in order to facilitate affordable, accessible and high-quality telecommunications services.

38. Actions by development partners are:

- (a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to develop their energy and information and communications technology sectors;
- (b) To promote energy-efficient investment in landlocked developing countries and facilitate the green economic transformation;
- (c) To support landlocked developing countries in promoting their national broadband policy and developing necessary broadband infrastructure;
- (d) To provide capacity-building to landlocked developing countries for the use of modern and affordable communications technology;
- (e) To continue to support efforts of landlocked developing countries with the respective transit developing countries to facilitate access to information and communications technologies and the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and

technology, on mutually agreed terms, for the development, maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure.

### **Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation**

#### **(a) International trade**

39. Greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and ensuring their economic development. Exporting goods produced in landlocked developing countries incurs additional transport costs, which may decrease competitiveness and reduce revenue for producers from those countries. The export structure of many landlocked developing countries continues to be increasingly characterized by a reliance on the export of a limited number of products, in particular agricultural products and mineral resources. Priority should be given to policies and measures, with the support of development partners, to diversify the production and export structures of landlocked developing countries and to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in order to take full advantage of the multilateral trading system.

40. With the growing interlinkages between world trade, investment and production, global value chains account for a rising share of international trade. Landlocked developing countries have not been able to fully participate in regional or global value chains. Linking into global value chains presents an opportunity for landlocked developing countries to achieve greater integration within world markets, increase their competitiveness and become important links in production and distribution chains.

41. Services are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains. Efficient services enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation. Landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies.

42. One of the main causes of marginalization of landlocked developing countries in the international trading system is high trade transaction costs. The importance of enhanced and predictable access to all markets for the exports of developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, was recognized in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development.<sup>15</sup> In accordance with the commitments contained in the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization<sup>16</sup> and the rules of the World Trade Organization, full attention should be given in the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations to the needs and interests of developing countries, including landlocked and transit developing countries. Given the increasing growth in South-South trade, other developing countries could be important export destinations for the products of landlocked developing countries and sources of critical foreign direct investment.

43. Trade ministers at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, agreed by consensus on a package of declarations and instruments, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which clarifies and improves articles V, VIII and X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994, with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation and its timely implementation in the context of the Bali package are important for the facilitation of trade for landlocked developing countries. The Agreement includes important provisions on

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<sup>15</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>16</sup> See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

technical assistance and capacity-building to help landlocked developing countries to implement it effectively.

44. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly increase the participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade, with a focus on substantially increasing exports;

(b) To significantly increase the value added and manufactured component, as appropriate, of the exports of landlocked developing countries, with the objective of substantially diversifying their markets and products;

(c) To further strengthen economic and financial ties between landlocked developing countries and other countries in the same region so as to gradually and consistently increase the landlocked developing countries' share in intraregional trade;

(d) To invite Member States to consider the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in all international trade negotiations.

45. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To develop a national trade strategy based on comparative advantages and regional and global opportunities;

(b) To integrate trade policies into national development strategies;

(c) To promote a better business environment so as to assist national firms to integrate into regional and global value chains;

(d) To promote policies to help national firms, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate more fully in international trade;

(e) To fully leverage bilateral and regional preferential trading arrangements with a view to broadening regional and global integration;

(f) To implement policies and measures that will significantly increase economic and export diversification and value added.

46. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(a) To promote investment in landlocked developing countries, with the aim of promoting their productive and trading capacity and supporting their participation in regional trade arrangements;

(b) To improve market access for products originating from landlocked developing countries, without arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Transit countries and landlocked developing countries should carry out studies on logistical competitiveness and logistical costs based on internationally recognized methodologies.

47. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to diversify exports, integrate into global and regional value chains and effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations;

(b) To address non-tariff measures and reduce or eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers, that is, those that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Landlocked developing countries and development partners should promote better integration of small and medium-sized enterprises within international trade by, when appropriate, strengthening institutions that support trade, fostering trade

competitiveness, building spaces for private-public dialogue, fostering technical and vocational education and training and capacity-building and creating market linkages through business-to-business platforms;

(d) To promote the diffusion and uptake of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions, including through investment or cooperation projects to promote economic diversification and sustainable development, as appropriate;

(e) To offer appropriate technical assistance and capacity-building to landlocked developing countries to complete the process of their accession to the World Trade Organization, fulfil their commitments and integrate into the multilateral trading system;

(f) To continue to provide aid for trade to landlocked developing countries, consistent with World Trade Organization guidelines.

#### **(b) Trade facilitation**

48. Non-physical barriers, delays and inefficiencies associated with border crossings and ports, including customs procedures and documentation requirements, uncertainty in logistical services, weak institutions and widespread lack of human and productive capacities, continue to make transport costs high. They are at the core of the continued marginalization of many landlocked developing countries. Further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance should have a concrete and direct impact on reducing the cost of doing trade and stimulating faster and competitive trade for landlocked developing countries. Such improved trade facilitation would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services.

49. In many landlocked developing countries, human and institutional capacities are not adequate in a number of areas, including in customs and border entities, transit transport agencies, the trade negotiation process and the implementation of transit and trade facilitation agreements, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, leading to a lack of effective implementation. Technical assistance and the improvement of trade- and transit-related logistics are crucial in enabling landlocked developing countries to fully participate in and benefit from multilateral trade negotiations, effectively implement policies and regulations aimed at facilitating transport and trade and diversify their export base.

50. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures with the aim of reducing port and border delays;

(b) To improve transit facilities and their efficiency with the aim of reducing transaction costs;

(c) To ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization.

51. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national committees on trade facilitation, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(b) To scale up and implement trade facilitation initiatives such as single-stop inspections, single windows for documentation, electronic payment and transparency and modernization of border posts and customs services, among others;

(c) To effectively implement integrated border management systems and strive to establish one-stop border posts, where appropriate, with neighbouring landlocked or transit developing countries to allow for the joint processing of legal and regulatory requirements, with a view to reducing clearance times at borders, while fully utilizing the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity;

(d) To ensure full and inclusive representation of the private sector, including public-private partnerships and transport business associations, in trade facilitation initiatives and policy, and to develop the necessary policies and regulatory framework to promote private sector involvement.

52. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(a) To ensure that trade facilitation initiatives, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, are developed and implemented together with landlocked developing countries in all relevant areas;

(b) To undertake further harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules, documentation requirements and border crossing and customs procedures; to enhance collaboration and cooperation among various customs and border-crossing agencies across borders; to promote the use of electronic (e-transaction) processes, the pre-arrival submission of customs declarations, risk management inspection systems and authorized economic operator systems; to improve transparency, predictability and consistency in customs activities; and to establish one-stop border posts, as appropriate, joint customs controls and inspection at border sites and other forms of integrated border management at borders with landlocked developing countries;

(c) Sharing best practices in customs, border and corridor management and in the implementation of trade facilitation policies should be encouraged at the global, regional, subregional and South-South levels, including in the private sector;

(d) To fully utilize the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity and ensure secure and reliable transport across borders by, inter alia, effectively implementing existing international standards and best practices for customs transit and safety and security of transport chains;

(e) To ensure transparency in border crossings, customs and transit transport rules, regulations, fees and charges and to accord non-discriminatory treatment so that the freedom of transit of goods is guaranteed to landlocked developing countries.

53. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the area of trade facilitation, in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which was agreed upon by consensus in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and to encourage international organizations to help landlocked developing countries to assess their needs in implementing that Agreement and relevant trade facilitation measures;

(b) To support activities, including trade facilitation, aimed at simplifying, streamlining, standardizing and harmonizing import, export and customs procedures;

(c) To encourage the sharing of information on experiences and best practices related to trade facilitation with a view to creating an environment that allows for the implementation of multi-country customs transit guarantee regimes through the implementation of either international transit agreements or functional regional agreements;

(d) To support capacity-building, including training programmes, in the areas of customs, border clearance and transport;

(e) To encourage regional aid for trade so as to promote trade integration among landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

#### **Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation**

54. Close cooperation with transit countries is a sine qua non for improved connectivity in transport, energy and information and communications technology. Infrastructure, trade and regulatory policies, together with political stability of neighbouring countries, have significant repercussions for the external trade of landlocked developing countries. The costs of reaching international markets for landlocked developing countries do not depend only on their geography, policies, infrastructure and administration procedures, but also on those of neighbouring countries. Thus, regional integration and coherent and harmonized regional policies provide an opportunity to improve transit transport connectivity and ensure greater intraregional trade, common regulatory policies, border agency cooperation and harmonized customs procedures to expand regional markets.

55. There is a need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity. This approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets. This would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization. Documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices is important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience.

56. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To promote regional integration by strengthening regional trade, transport, communications and energy networks;

(b) To promote harmonization of regional policies so as to strengthen regional synergy, competitiveness and regional value chains;

(c) To strengthen participation of landlocked developing countries in bilateral and regional integration frameworks.

57. Actions by transit developing countries include their contribution to deepening regional integration through the coherent development of regional infrastructure, trade facilitation measures and regional trade agreements, including the establishment of effective and efficient customs guarantee systems to help landlocked developing countries to overcome constraints resulting from their landlockedness.

58. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support efforts made by landlocked developing countries and their transit partners to deepen regional integration through the development and implementation of key regional transport projects and regional transport agreements for facilitating the cross-border movement of goods and passengers;

(b) To support ongoing regional integration processes involving landlocked developing countries;

(c) To share best practices in promoting regional integration.

#### **Priority 5: Structural economic transformation**

59. Many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition. In order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures that could promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of

their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Increased value addition and economic diversification are key to such structural economic transformation. Institutional capacity-building and human resources development are equally important for landlocked developing countries.

60. Improving the manufacturing capacity of landlocked developing countries, including their contribution to regional and global value chains, can achieve the triple objective of creating better-paying jobs, increasing revenue and reducing the bulk of their primary exports. Higher-value and low-bulk exports are particularly crucial for landlocked developing countries. In this context, it is important to place proper emphasis on the development of manufacturing, agriculture and the services sector, including finance, information and communications technologies and tourism, as appropriate to national circumstances. Tourism can play an important role in building the economic sector, providing employment and generating foreign exchange.

61. Science, technology and innovation play a critical role in achieving structural economic transformation, productive capacity development and value addition. Conducive national policies, international support and foreign direct investment are necessary to facilitate access to science, technology and innovation, and landlocked developing countries should promote investment in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

62. The private sector contributes to economic growth and poverty eradication through the building of productive capacity, creation of decent jobs, promotion of innovation, economic diversification and competition. In landlocked developing countries, the private sector is actively involved in activities related to transit and trade facilitation, including as traders, freight forwarders, insurance providers and transporters, and the sector is a source of tax revenue and domestic investment and a partner for foreign direct investment. Public-private partnerships can play an important role in infrastructure development.

63. Specific objectives are:

(a) To increase value addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, with the aim of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development;

(b) To increase economic and export diversification;

(c) To promote service-based growth, including from tourism, with a view to increasing its contribution to the national economy;

(d) To encourage the inflow of foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors.

64. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To develop a structural transformation strategy aimed at improving science, technology and innovation, export diversification, productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, including tourism;

(b) To encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship and the use of modern, cost-effective and locally adapted technologies, with an emphasis on sectors such as agriculture, transport, information and communications, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education, as well as the development of effective public and private partnerships;

(c) To build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in manufacturing, agriculture and services;

(d) To promote the attraction of more diversified foreign direct investment through the creation of a conducive environment, with the aim of enhancing value addition,



productive capacity, transit transport infrastructure and completion of missing links connecting landlocked developing countries within the regional network;

(e) To undertake measures to modernize the services sector by strengthening links between and among financial intermediaries, creative industries and business and legal and technical services;

(f) To create industrial clusters, such as export-processing zones and regional centres of excellence, with the aim of fostering knowledge networks and connectedness among companies;

(g) To prioritize private sector development, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises;

(h) To develop an industrial policy that takes into account the need for improved access to financial resources, development of appropriate human capacity and investment in supportive economic infrastructure as a way to further strengthen the private sector;

(i) To strengthen, as appropriate, an effective competition policy that supports business activity and further consolidates a supportive legal and regulatory framework, and to create macroeconomic conditions and systems that can facilitate the development of the private sector;

(j) To utilize the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries for sharing experiences, know-how, research and other resources on issues related to trade, transit, transport and capacity-building among landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so should ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

65. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to improve their productive capacities and create economic diversification;

(b) To contribute to the efforts of landlocked developing countries to share innovative technologies, scientific knowledge and technical know-how and best practices;

(c) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to increase the value addition of their agricultural and industrial output;

(d) To support landlocked developing countries in building institutional and human capacities aimed at improving their ability to attract foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors and to enhance negotiation skills for bringing in responsible investment;

(e) To support landlocked developing countries to enable them to pursue the effective partnerships necessary for capacity-building, sustainability and quality enhancement, as well as for sectoral development, including the development of tourism;

(f) To support landlocked developing countries in building resilience, developing capacity to respond effectively to external shocks and addressing their specific supply-side constraints.

#### **Priority 6: Means of implementation**

66. The development and progress of any country is the primary responsibility of that country itself. Landlocked developing countries have made efforts to mobilize domestic resources for the development of infrastructure and transit facilities, as well as for overall socioeconomic development. However, lack of adequate financial resources and capacity constraints are some of the biggest challenges facing landlocked developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustained growth and sustainable development. Landlocked

developing countries and their transit neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

67. The support of development partners is needed to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries to establish and maintain effective transit transport systems, integration into the world economy, structural transformation of their economies and enhancement of their productive capacities. Development partners are therefore encouraged to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action. Development partners should also encourage private sector investment in landlocked developing countries that are implementing the Programme of Action.

68. Official development assistance flows remain a major source of external financing for many landlocked developing countries. It is important to urgently fulfil existing official development assistance commitments, and such assistance to landlocked developing countries should fully take into account the specific situation of each country. Development partners and multilateral organizations have a crucial role to play in supporting the efforts of landlocked developing countries to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

69. Aid for trade plays a key role in assisting capacity-building for landlocked developing countries on the formulation of trade policies, the implementation of trade facilitation measures and the development of trade-related infrastructure, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of their products in export markets. Aid for trade, in combination with complementary policies, has contributed to lower trade costs, with additional infrastructure, better border institutions and regulatory procedures and enhanced capacities. Aid for trade, along with the commitment of landlocked developing countries to necessary reforms, is also important in linking to or advancing the position of landlocked developing countries in the global and regional value chains.

70. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation also have a role to play in increasing the growth and development of landlocked developing countries, as well as transit developing countries, through their contribution, as appropriate, to the sharing of best practices, human and productive capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

71. The implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would also require individual and concerted efforts by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations. These organizations are invited to give priority to requests for technical assistance and capacity-building support from landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates.

72. The private sector, including through foreign direct investment, also has a critical role to play in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, for example through building and strengthening productive capacity, export growth, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, diffusion of productive know-how, managerial skill and capital, creation of wealth, the opening up of new markets for high-value added products and services and employment generation. Foreign direct investment can also play a key role in building the infrastructure that underpins economic activities.

**VI. Implementation, follow-up and review**

73. Implementation, follow-up and review should be undertaken at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. Follow-up and review should be a continuous process aimed at reinforcing partnerships and mutual accountability at all levels and by all actors.

74. At the national level, Governments are invited to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies for its effective implementation. Landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are encouraged to establish national coordination mechanisms, where appropriate. Monitoring and review should involve all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

75. At the subregional and regional levels, monitoring and review should be undertaken through existing intergovernmental processes. Regional and subregional organizations, including regional economic communities and regional development banks, are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, within their existing mandates, and the regional commissions. The regional commissions are encouraged to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The relevant regional and subregional organizations and the private sector should be actively involved in the sessions of the regional commissions in that regard.

76. At the global level, the General Assembly should continue to undertake reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through reports of the Secretary-General. The governing bodies of organizations in the United Nations system are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their programme of work and to conduct sectoral and thematic reviews of the Programme of Action, as appropriate. The private sector should be involved in the reviews at the global level.

77. In accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels. The Office of the High Representative, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates.

78. The General Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in order to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the present Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action.



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**Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda item 21 (b)

**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
on 30 December 2022***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/77/446/Add.2, para. 8)]***77/246. Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries***The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration,<sup>1</sup> the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>2</sup> and the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,<sup>3</sup>

*Reaffirming* the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

*Recalling* its resolutions [71/239](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/232](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/243](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/233](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/228](#) of 21 December 2020 and [76/217](#) of 17 December 2021,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [69/137](#), annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [74/15](#).



Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Reaffirming further* the Paris Agreement<sup>4</sup> and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>5</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>6</sup> while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

*Reaffirming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>7</sup> and recognizing the importance of sustainable urban development for landlocked developing countries,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>8</sup> which represents a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels, cognizant that

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<sup>4</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

many landlocked developing countries belong to the least developed country category,

*Welcoming also* the holding of the Ministerial Transport Conference of the Landlocked Developing Countries in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, on 15 and 16 August 2022, on the theme “Ashgabat process: financing for better connectivity”, and taking note of its outcome, the Awaza summary statement,<sup>9</sup>

*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to pose serious constraints on the overall growth and socioeconomic development of landlocked developing countries,

*Acknowledging* the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

*Recognizing* the transport infrastructure gap in landlocked developing countries and the need to bring the level of transport infrastructure up to global standards and, in this regard, the crucial importance of strong national and international partnerships to bridging the gap and enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities,

*Acknowledging* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

*Recognizing* that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full gender equality with all men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed,

*Taking note* of the declaration of the annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2022 on the theme “Accelerating implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and building momentum towards the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”,

*Noting with great concern* that the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in landlocked developing countries more than tripled between April 2021 and April 2022, to 157,000, and only 26 per cent of the population was fully vaccinated at the end of April 2022, compared with 59 per cent worldwide, the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are often the hardest hit by the pandemic,

*Concerned* by the ongoing disruption in trade logistics that continues to hamper global value chains and by the high cost of global supply chains, recognizing that landlocked developing countries are highly dependent on transit countries to access international markets, are particularly vulnerable to cross-border restrictions in combating the spread of COVID-19 and the social and economic impacts of lockdown measures related to it, the health effects of the pandemic, commodity price shocks and a global recession, recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly halted progress in almost all priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action and increased

<sup>9</sup> A/77/343, annex.

the challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 as mobility restrictions amplified existing geographical and structural vulnerabilities and that, for landlocked developing countries, the fiscal implications of the pandemic have led to an increased risk of debt distress, with approximately 34.3 per cent of landlocked developing countries now assessed to be at high risk of or already in debt distress, limiting the fiscal and policy space for critical investments in a sustainable and inclusive recovery, and recalling the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years adopted by the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries on 23 September 2020,

*Recognizing* that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for supporting landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

*Taking note* of the outcome document of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2022, the Bridgetown Covenant,<sup>10</sup> the outcome document of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, the “Bali agenda for resilience” adopted during the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 28 May 2022, and the convening of the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in Beijing from 14 to 16 October 2021,

*Taking note also* of the Joint Inspection Unit review<sup>11</sup> of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action, in which concern was expressed about the vast gaps between the expectations from the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to deliver and the existing resources of the subprogramme on landlocked developing countries,

*Reaffirming* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and affirming further that their effective implementation, together with the implementation of the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, which builds upon the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>12</sup> can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;<sup>13</sup>

2. *Recalls* the convening of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and the

<sup>10</sup> [TD/541/Add.2](#).

<sup>11</sup> [JIU/REP/2021/2](#).

<sup>12</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex I.

<sup>13</sup> [A/77/269](#).

high-level Political Declaration, in which all the relevant stakeholders are called upon to commit to the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

3. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

4. *Recognizes* that the adverse global economic conditions, including stalled growth, surging inflation, the energy crisis, high sovereign debt levels, volatile commodity prices, rising food prices and dysfunctions in global food security, skyrocketing shipping costs, supply chain and production disruptions and elevated shipping and trade costs, are constraining landlocked developing countries from recovering from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

5. *Calls upon* States to ensure the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and cross-border travel for essential purposes, and to enhance the sustainability and resilience of supply chains that foster the sustainable integration of landlocked developing countries and promote inclusive economic growth, including through the increased participation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade and investment;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>14</sup> to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

7. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to enhance cross-border collaboration by minimizing disruptions to international transport, eliminating unnecessary trade restrictions and facilitating free movement of, primarily, essential goods such as food, medical supplies and personal protection equipment, consistent with World Trade Organization rules, undertaking coordinated interventions, in particular at the regional level, ensuring the transparency and availability of information about import, export and transit procedures, making use of trade facilitation standards and digital technologies such as the electronic exchange of information and paperless solutions, calls for sustainable, inclusive, affordable and resilient regional and global value chains and transport systems and gender-responsive services to and from landlocked developing countries to help them to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent future disruptions of a similar nature, while recognizing that regional economic integration is an important driver for sustainable development and integration into the global economy, and invites development partners and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance support to landlocked developing countries and transit countries in implementing the relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;<sup>15</sup>

8. *Encourages* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners to actively engage in the dedicated session on transit issues that will be held annually until the next review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is completed, pursuant to the decision taken at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, which will

<sup>14</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>15</sup> Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).



contribute to enhancing reforms aimed at facilitating transit for landlocked developing countries;

9. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the relevant actions, consistent with national priorities, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

10. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation, and encourages development partners, the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide technical support, within their respective mandates, to the landlocked developing countries in their efforts to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda into their national development strategies;

11. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, and invites Member States that have not joined the existing conventions to consider the possibility of accession;

12. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, including roads, railroads, inland waterways, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

13. *Recognizes* that investing in the maintenance and development of hard and soft infrastructure can boost pandemic recovery efforts, notes the importance of sound infrastructure governance over the life cycle of the projects to ensure the long-term cost-effectiveness, economic efficiency, accountability, transparency and integrity of infrastructure investment, including through an open procurement process, stresses that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge that requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and the reinforcement of the role of the private sector;

14. *Recognizes* that both public and private investment have key roles to play in sustainable infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled financing structures;

15. *Encourages* multilateral financial and development institutions and multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the private sector, to make investments in addressing gaps in renewable energy, information and communications technology, e-commerce, trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure;

16. *Calls for* the full and timely implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation annexed to the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, and in this regard urges members and relevant

international and regional organizations to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation;

17. *Also calls for* renewed and strengthened partnerships to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports in order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth;

18. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

19. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation is vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building and training, infrastructure, energy, water, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation, and its significant contributions to short-term pandemic response and long-term COVID-19 recovery, and in this regard highlights the importance of the implementation of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;<sup>16</sup>

20. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underlined by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

21. *Also recognizes* the constraints faced by landlocked developing countries in gaining access to sustainable investment, and stresses the need to strengthen capacity-building support for these countries, to integrate sustainable investment approaches into capital market development plans;

22. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

23. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, and urges development partners to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts to fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments, while noting that official development assistance reached a new peak in 2021;

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<sup>16</sup> Resolution 73/291, annex.

24. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources, including through foreign direct investment, for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>17</sup> and the Vienna Programme of Action;

25. *Also recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition and are greatly affected by external shocks, and stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development and formalization of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

26. *Further recognizes* that foreign direct investment can reduce inequalities and help commodity-dependent landlocked developing countries to make the transition to manufacturing activities and other higher value added activities;

27. *Recognizes* the crucial role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in contributing to inclusive growth and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through job creation and improving livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable, and in promoting support measures to develop micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in landlocked developing countries, including their formalization and participation in international trade;

28. *Stresses* the need to assist landlocked developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, and sound debt management, as appropriate, and welcomes the multilateral response to the pandemic, including the Group of 20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative, which ended in December 2021, and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative;

29. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

30. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to and remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, receding glaciers, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries towards climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building;

31. *Takes note* of scientific research undertaken by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, encourages the International Think Tank to continue to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the

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<sup>17</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites relevant stakeholders to support the International Think Tank;

32. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

33. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

34. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the outcome of its midterm review and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

35. *Recalls* paragraph 78 of the Vienna Programme of Action on the holding of a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, towards the end of the decade, in order to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and decides to convene the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in the first half of 2024 for a duration of five days at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in resolution [76/217](#);

36. *Welcomes and accepts with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Rwanda to host the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Kigali;

37. *Decides* to convene two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in New York towards the end of 2023 and/or early in 2024, of no more than seven days in total;

38. *Also decides* that the preparatory committee shall have a Bureau consisting of two members from each regional group, that the Bureau shall elect its own Co-Chairs and that the host country and the Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Bureau;

39. *Further decides* that the Bureau shall be co-chaired by two Member States, comprising one developed State and one developing State;

40. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the 10-member Bureau of the preparatory committee no later than 30 June 2023, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the committee;

41. *Invites* the Bureau to convene further meetings on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to discuss the draft outcome document of the Conference;

42. *Decides* that the Conference and the meetings of its preparatory committee shall provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the

United Nations and members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the committee, as applicable, and that the committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly, except as otherwise provided in the present resolution;

43. *Also decides* that the meetings of the preparatory committee will be preceded by three regional preparatory meetings, in line with paragraph 25 of resolution [76/217](#), each no longer than three days, for the Africa region, the Euro-Asia region and the Latin America region, to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

44. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and in the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls upon the Governments of the landlocked developing countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in the preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country-level and regional preparations;

46. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be organized and carried out in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

47. *Encourages* the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in the Conference at the highest level possible;

48. *Calls upon* all stakeholders, while reviewing implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to identify innovative solutions and initiatives that can be launched as key deliverables at the Conference;

49. *Invites* the Secretary-General to convene a high-level event of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations during the Conference, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the landlocked developing countries;

50. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to organize a half-day dedicated thematic event in the second half of 2023 in order to provide substantive input to the Conference;

51. *Stresses*, while recognizing the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, the importance of the effective, well-structured and broad participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, in the Conference and its preparatory process, including national and regional reviews and thematic preparations, as well as in the interactive thematic round tables and side events during the Conference, underlines that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process, and decides:

(a) To invite non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(b) To invite other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, other international bodies and other non-governmental organizations to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(c) To request the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation and with due regard for gender parity and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the Conference;<sup>18</sup>

52. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative to act as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, pursuant to resolution 76/217, and invites the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

53. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the landlocked developing countries in the Conference and its preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize voluntary contributions in order to support the cost of the participation of government representatives from the landlocked developing countries;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration and avoiding overlap and duplication with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

55. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Conference at the earliest possible date;

56. *Recognizes* the important role of the Group of Friends of Landlocked Developing Countries, and calls for their active participation and support in the preparation for the Conference and at the Conference itself;

57. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its current session with a view to ensuring that the Office of the High Representative has adequate capacity to support the Conference and its preparatory process and effectively implement the mandate for the subprogramme responsible for the landlocked developing countries;

58. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna

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<sup>18</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

Programme of Action, as well as the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the participation of landlocked developing countries in the Conference;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a 10-year assessment report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in preparation for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”.

*56th (resumed) plenary meeting  
30 December 2022*

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 June 2015

Sixty-ninth session  
Agenda item 19 (c)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 June 2015

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.67)]

### 69/283. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 67/209 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to convene, in early 2015, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as its resolutions 68/211 of 20 December 2013 and 69/219 of 19 December 2014 and its decision 69/556 of 5 March 2015,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Japan for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 adopted by the Conference, which are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present resolution.

*92nd plenary meeting  
3 June 2015*

## Annex I

### Sendai Declaration

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, ministers and delegates participating in the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, have gathered from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, which has demonstrated a vibrant recovery from the great east Japan earthquake in March 2011. Recognizing the increasing impact of disasters and their complexity in many parts of the world, we declare our determination to enhance our efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction to reduce losses of lives and assets from disasters worldwide.

2. We value the important role played by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters<sup>1</sup> during the past 10 years. Having completed the assessment and review of and considered the experience gained under its implementation, we hereby adopt the Sendai Framework

<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr. 1, chap.I, resolution 2.





for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the new framework as the guide to enhance our efforts for the future.

3. We call all stakeholders to action, aware that the realization of the new framework depends on our unceasing and tireless collective efforts to make the world safer from the risk of disasters in the decades to come for the benefit of the present and future generations.

4. We thank the people and the Government of Japan as well as the City of Sendai for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and extend our appreciation to Japan for its commitment to advancing disaster risk reduction in the global development agenda.

## **Annex II**

### **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030**

#### **I. Preamble**

1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan, which represented a unique opportunity for countries:

(a) To adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(b) To complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;<sup>2</sup>

(c) To consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations, as well as relevant regional agreements for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(d) To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(e) To determine modalities for the periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. During the World Conference, States also reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience<sup>3</sup> to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.

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<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

<sup>3</sup> Resilience is defined as: “The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions” (see [www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology](http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology)).

### **Hyogo Framework for Action: lessons learned, gaps identified and future challenges**

3. Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, as documented in national and regional progress reports on its implementation as well as in other global reports, progress has been achieved in reducing disaster risk at local, national, regional and global levels by countries and other relevant stakeholders, leading to a decrease in mortality in the case of some hazards.<sup>4</sup> Reducing disaster risk is a cost-effective investment in preventing future losses. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. Countries have enhanced their capacities in disaster risk management. International mechanisms for strategic advice, coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, as well as other relevant international and regional forums for cooperation, have been instrumental in the development of policies and strategies and the advancement of knowledge and mutual learning. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has been an important instrument for raising public and institutional awareness, generating political commitment and focusing and catalysing actions by a wide range of stakeholders at all levels.

4. Over the same 10-year time frame, however, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll and, as a result, the well-being and safety of persons, communities and countries as a whole have been affected. Over 700 thousand people have lost their lives, over 1.4 million have been injured and approximately 23 million have been made homeless as a result of disasters. Overall, more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected. The total economic loss was more than \$1.3 trillion. In addition, between 2008 and 2012, 144 million people were displaced by disasters. Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development. Evidence indicates that exposure of persons and assets in all countries has increased faster than vulnerability<sup>5</sup> has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster-related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels. Recurring small-scale disasters and slow-onset disasters particularly affect communities, households and small and medium-sized enterprises, constituting a high percentage of all losses. All countries – especially developing countries, where the mortality and economic losses from disasters are disproportionately higher – are faced with increasing levels of possible hidden costs and challenges in order to meet financial and other obligations.

5. It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods,

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<sup>4</sup> Hazard is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: “A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards)”.

<sup>5</sup> Vulnerability is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: “The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards”.

health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience.

6. Enhanced work to reduce exposure and vulnerability, thus preventing the creation of new disaster risks, and accountability for disaster risk creation are needed at all levels. More dedicated action needs to be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, pandemics and epidemics. Moreover, it is necessary to continue strengthening good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional and global levels and improving preparedness and national coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and to use post-disaster recovery and reconstruction to “Build Back Better”, supported by strengthened modalities of international cooperation.

7. There has to be a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. There is a need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices.

8. International, regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation remains pivotal in supporting the efforts of States, their national and local authorities, as well as communities and businesses, to reduce disaster risk. Existing mechanisms may require strengthening in order to provide effective support and achieve better implementation. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, need special attention and support to augment domestic resources and capabilities through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to ensure adequate, sustainable, and timely means of implementation in capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with international commitments.

9. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has provided critical guidance in efforts to reduce disaster risk and has contributed to the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its implementation has, however, highlighted a number of gaps in addressing the underlying disaster risk factors, in the formulation of goals and priorities for action,<sup>6</sup> in the need to foster

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<sup>6</sup> The Hyogo Framework priorities for action 2005–2015 are: (1) to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (2) to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; (3) to use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (4) to reduce the underlying risk factors; and (5) to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

disaster resilience at all levels and in ensuring adequate means of implementation. The gaps indicate a need to develop an action-oriented framework that Governments and relevant stakeholders can implement in a supportive and complementary manner, and which helps to identify disaster risks to be managed and guides investment to improve resilience.

10. Ten years after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, disasters continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

11. The intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective mandates. Ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty.

12. It is recalled that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>7</sup> called for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to be integrated at all levels. The Conference also reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.<sup>8</sup>

13. Addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, while respecting the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>9</sup> represents an opportunity to reduce disaster risk in a meaningful and coherent manner throughout the interrelated intergovernmental processes.

14. Against this background, and in order to reduce disaster risk, there is a need to address existing challenges and prepare for future ones by focusing on monitoring, assessing and understanding disaster risk and sharing such information and on how it is created; strengthening disaster risk governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors and the full and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at appropriate levels; investing in the economic, social, health, cultural and educational resilience of persons, communities and countries and the environment, as well as through technology and research; and enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. To complement national action and capacity, there is a need to enhance international cooperation between developed and developing countries and between States and international organizations.

15. The present Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822. The climate change issues mentioned in the present Framework remain within the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the competences of the parties to the Convention.

hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

## II. Expected outcome and goal

16. While some progress in building resilience and reducing losses and damages has been achieved, a substantial reduction of disaster risk requires perseverance and persistence, with a more explicit focus on people and their health and livelihoods, and regular follow-up. Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action, the present Framework aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years:

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

The realization of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country at all levels in the implementation and follow-up of the present Framework and in the creation of the necessary conducive and enabling environment.

17. To attain the expected outcome, the following goal must be pursued:

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

The pursuance of this goal requires the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation for the provision of means of implementation in accordance with their national priorities.

18. To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of the present Framework, seven global targets have been agreed. These targets will be measured at the global level and will be complemented by work to develop appropriate indicators. National targets and indicators will contribute to the achievement of the outcome and goal of the present Framework. The seven global targets are:

(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;<sup>10</sup>

(c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

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<sup>10</sup> Categories of affected people will be elaborated in the process for post-Sendai work decided by the Conference.

(d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030;

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

### III. Guiding principles

19. Drawing from the principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action<sup>11</sup> and the Hyogo Framework for Action, the implementation of the present Framework will be guided by the following principles, while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments:

(a) Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation. The reduction of disaster risk is a common concern for all States and the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

(b) Disaster risk reduction requires that responsibilities be shared by central Governments and relevant national authorities, sectors and stakeholders, as appropriate to their national circumstances and systems of governance;

(c) Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;

(d) Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;

(e) Disaster risk reduction and management depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels, and it requires the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels and a clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, including business and

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<sup>11</sup> A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

academia, to ensure mutual outreach, partnership, complementarity in roles and accountability and follow-up;

(f) While the enabling, guiding and coordinating role of national and federal State Governments remain essential, it is necessary to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate;

(g) Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge;

(h) The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction agendas. Disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development;

(i) While the drivers of disaster risk may be local, national, regional or global in scope, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics that must be understood for the determination of measures to reduce disaster risk;

(j) Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contributes to sustainable development;

(k) In the post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, it is critical to prevent the creation of and to reduce disaster risk by “Building Back Better” and increasing public education and awareness of disaster risk;

(l) An effective and meaningful global partnership and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management;

(m) Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income and other countries facing specific disaster risk challenges, need adequate, sustainable and timely provision of support, including through finance, technology transfer and capacity-building from developed countries and partners tailored to their needs and priorities, as identified by them.

#### **IV. Priorities for action**

20. Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and in pursuance of the expected outcome and goal, there is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

21. In their approach to disaster risk reduction, States, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders should take into consideration the key activities listed under each of these four priorities and should implement them, as appropriate, taking into consideration respective capacities and capabilities, in line with national laws and regulations.

22. In the context of increasing global interdependence, concerted international cooperation, an enabling international environment and means of implementation are needed to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction at all levels, in particular for developing countries.

### **Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk**

23. Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.

### **National and local levels**

24. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To promote the collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data and practical information and ensure its dissemination, taking into account the needs of different categories of users, as appropriate;

(b) To encourage the use of and strengthening of baselines and periodically assess disaster risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential effects at the relevant social and spatial scale on ecosystems, in line with national circumstances;

(c) To develop, periodically update and disseminate, as appropriate, location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, to decision makers, the general public and communities at risk of exposure to disaster in an appropriate format by using, as applicable, geospatial information technology;

(d) To systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, education, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information;

(e) To make non-sensitive hazard-exposure, vulnerability, risk, disaster and loss-disaggregated information freely available and accessible, as appropriate;

(f) To promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;

(g) To build the knowledge of government officials at all levels, civil society, communities and volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices and training and education on disaster risk reduction, including the use of existing training and education mechanisms and peer learning;



(h) To promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technological communities, other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in order to facilitate a science-policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk management;

(i) To ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;

(j) To strengthen technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge and to develop and apply methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure to all hazards;

(k) To promote investments in innovation and technology development in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research in disaster risk management to address gaps, obstacles, interdependencies and social, economic, educational and environmental challenges and disaster risks;

(l) To promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

(m) To promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;

(n) To apply risk information in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure of persons, communities, countries and assets, as well as hazard characteristics, to develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies;

(o) To enhance collaboration among people at the local level to disseminate disaster risk information through the involvement of community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations.

### **Global and regional levels**

25. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems;

(b) To promote the conduct of comprehensive surveys on multi-hazard disaster risks and the development of regional disaster risk assessments and maps, including climate change scenarios;

(c) To promote and enhance, through international cooperation, including technology transfer, access to and the sharing and use of non-sensitive data and information, as appropriate, communications and geospatial and space-based technologies and related services; maintain and strengthen in situ and remotely-sensed earth and climate observations; and strengthen the utilization of media, including social media, traditional media, big data and mobile phone networks, to

support national measures for successful disaster risk communication, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws;

(d) To promote common efforts in partnership with the scientific and technological community, academia and the private sector to establish, disseminate and share good practices internationally;

(e) To support the development of local, national, regional and global user-friendly systems and services for the exchange of information on good practices, cost-effective and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies and lessons learned on policies, plans and measures for disaster risk reduction;

(f) To develop effective global and regional campaigns as instruments for public awareness and education, building on the existing ones (for example, the “One million safe schools and hospitals” initiative; the “Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready” campaign; the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the annual United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction), to promote a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship, generate understanding of disaster risk, support mutual learning and share experiences; and encourage public and private stakeholders to actively engage in such initiatives and to develop new ones at the local, national, regional and global levels;

(g) To enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and in all regions, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, in order to strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of the present Framework; promote scientific research on disaster risk patterns, causes and effects; disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology; provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data; identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction; promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making; contribute to the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”; use post-disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies;

(h) To encourage the availability of copyrighted and patented materials, including through negotiated concessions, as appropriate;

(i) To enhance access to and support for innovation and technology, as well as in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research and development in the field of disaster risk management.

## **Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**

26. Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed. Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

**National and local levels**

27. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors in: (i) addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures; (ii) promoting and providing incentives, as relevant, for actions by persons, households, communities and businesses; (iii) enhancing relevant mechanisms and initiatives for disaster risk transparency, which may include financial incentives, public awareness-raising and training initiatives, reporting requirements and legal and administrative measures; and (iv) putting in place coordination and organizational structures;

(b) To adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience;

(c) To carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;

(d) To encourage the establishment of necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure high levels of compliance with the existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations, including those addressing land use and urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards, and update them, where needed, to ensure an adequate focus on disaster risk management;

(e) To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans; and promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;

(f) To assign, as appropriate, clear roles and tasks to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes and decision-making through relevant legal frameworks, and undertake comprehensive public and community consultations during the development of such laws and regulations to support their implementation;

(g) To establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It is necessary for such mechanisms to have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority to, inter alia, identify sectoral and multisectoral disaster risk, build awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing and dissemination of non-sensitive disaster risk information and data, contribute to and coordinate reports on local and national disaster risk, coordinate public awareness campaigns on disaster risk, facilitate and support local multisectoral cooperation (e.g. among local governments) and contribute to the determination of and reporting on national and local disaster risk management plans and all policies relevant for disaster risk management. These

responsibilities should be established through laws, regulations, standards and procedures;

(h) To empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;

(i) To encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;

(j) To promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the United Nations;

(k) To formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.

### **Global and regional levels**

28. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To guide action at the regional level through agreed regional and subregional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, in the light of the present Framework, in order to foster more efficient planning, create common information systems and exchange good practices and programmes for cooperation and capacity development, in particular to address common and transboundary disaster risks;

(b) To foster collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate;

(c) To actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors. Regional intergovernmental organizations should play an important role in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;

(d) To promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches with regard to shared resources, such as within river basins and along coastlines, to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including epidemic and displacement risk;

(e) To promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information through, inter alia, voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among interested States;

(f) To promote the strengthening of, as appropriate, international voluntary mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of disaster risks, including relevant data and information, benefiting from the experience of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Monitor. Such mechanisms may promote the exchange of non-sensitive information on disaster risks to the relevant national Government bodies and stakeholders in the interest of sustainable social and economic development.

### **Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

29. Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

#### **National and local levels**

30. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To allocate the necessary resources, including finance and logistics, as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors;

(b) To promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on Governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;

(c) To strengthen, as appropriate, disaster-resilient public and private investments, particularly through structural, non-structural and functional disaster risk prevention and reduction measures in critical facilities, in particular schools and hospitals and physical infrastructures; building better from the start to withstand hazards through proper design and construction, including the use of the principles of universal design and the standardization of building materials; retrofitting and rebuilding; nurturing a culture of maintenance; and taking into account economic, social, structural, technological and environmental impact assessments;

(d) To protect or support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest;

(e) To promote the disaster risk resilience of workplaces through structural and non-structural measures;

(f) To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;

(g) To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;

(h) To encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards and rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and

reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;

(i) To enhance the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary health care, especially at the local level; developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk and applying and implementing disaster risk reduction approaches in health work; promoting and enhancing the training capacities in the field of disaster medicine; and supporting and training community health groups in disaster risk reduction approaches in health programmes, in collaboration with other sectors, as well as in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization;

(j) To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;

(k) People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;

(l) To encourage the adoption of policies and programmes addressing disaster-induced human mobility to strengthen the resilience of affected people and that of host communities, in accordance with national laws and circumstances;

(m) To promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;

(n) To strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;

(o) To increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets throughout the supply chains, ensure continuity of services and integrate disaster risk management into business models and practices;

(p) To strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(q) To promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.

### **Global and regional levels**

31. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To promote coherence across systems, sectors and organizations related to sustainable development and to disaster risk reduction in their policies, plans, programmes and processes;

(b) To promote the development and strengthening of disaster risk transfer and sharing mechanisms and instruments in close cooperation with partners in the international community, business, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

(c) To promote cooperation between academic, scientific and research entities and networks and the private sector to develop new products and services to help to reduce disaster risk, in particular those that would assist developing countries and their specific challenges;

(d) To encourage the coordination between global and regional financial institutions with a view to assessing and anticipating the potential economic and social impacts of disasters;

(e) To enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the building of resilient health systems;

(f) To strengthen and promote collaboration and capacity-building for the protection of productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(g) To promote and support the development of social safety nets as disaster risk reduction measures linked to and integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes in order to ensure resilience to shocks at the household and community levels;

(h) To strengthen and broaden international efforts aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty through disaster risk reduction;

(i) To promote and support collaboration among relevant public and private stakeholders to enhance the resilience of business to disasters.

#### **Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**

32. The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

#### **National and local levels**

33. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes with the involvement of the relevant institutions, considering climate change scenarios and their impact on disaster risk, and facilitating, as appropriate, the participation of all sectors and relevant stakeholders;

(b) To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring

telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;

(c) To promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide life-saving and essential services;

(d) To establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;

(e) To adopt public policies and actions that support the role of public service workers to establish or strengthen coordination and funding mechanisms and procedures for relief assistance and plan and prepare for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;

(f) To train the existing workforce and voluntary workers in disaster response and strengthen technical and logistical capacities to ensure better response in emergencies;

(g) To ensure the continuity of operations and planning, including social and economic recovery, and the provision of basic services in the post-disaster phase;

(h) To promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, training and the establishment of area-based support systems, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to safe shelter, essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs;

(i) To promote the cooperation of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and related stakeholders at all levels, including affected communities and business, in view of the complex and costly nature of post-disaster reconstruction, under the coordination of national authorities;

(j) To promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land-use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;

(k) To develop guidance for preparedness for disaster reconstruction, such as on land-use planning and structural standards improvement, including by learning from the recovery and reconstruction programmes over the decade since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and lessons learned;

(l) To consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;



(m) To strengthen the capacity of local authorities to evacuate persons living in disaster-prone areas;

(n) To establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;

(o) To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;

(p) To review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.

#### **Global and regional levels**

34. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities;

(b) To promote the further development and dissemination of instruments, such as standards, codes, operational guides and other guidance instruments, to support coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response and facilitate information sharing on lessons learned and best practices for policy practice and post-disaster reconstruction programmes;

(c) To promote the further development of and investment in effective, nationally compatible, regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services, and facilitate the sharing and exchange of information across all countries;

(d) To enhance international mechanisms, such as the International Recovery Platform, for the sharing of experience and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders;

(e) To support, as appropriate, the efforts of relevant United Nations entities to strengthen and implement global mechanisms on hydrometeorological issues in order to raise awareness and improve understanding of water-related disaster risks and their impact on society, and advance strategies for disaster risk reduction upon the request of States;

(f) To support regional cooperation to deal with disaster preparedness, including through common exercises and drills;

(g) To promote regional protocols to facilitate the sharing of response capacities and resources during and after disasters;

(h) To train the existing workforce and volunteers in disaster response.

#### **V. Role of stakeholders**

35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the present Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

36. When determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders:

(a) Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate. On this point, it should be noted that:

(i) Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations;

(ii) Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula;

(iii) Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design;

(iv) Older persons have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(v) Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(vi) Migrants contribute to the resilience of communities and societies, and their knowledge, skills and capacities can be useful in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction;

(b) Academia, scientific and research entities and networks to focus on the disaster risk factors and scenarios, including emerging disaster risks, in the medium and long term; increase research for regional, national and local application; support action by local communities and authorities; and support the interface between policy and science for decision-making;

(c) Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive

data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management;

(d) Media to take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in contributing to the raising of public awareness and understanding and disseminate accurate and non-sensitive disaster risk, hazard and disaster information, including on small-scale disasters, in a simple, transparent, easy-to-understand and accessible manner, in close cooperation with national authorities; adopt specific disaster risk reduction communications policies; support, as appropriate, early warning systems and life-saving protective measures; and stimulate a culture of prevention and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society, in accordance with national practices.

37. With reference to General Assembly resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, commitments by relevant stakeholders are important in order to identify modalities of cooperation and to implement the present Framework. Those commitments should be specific and time-bound in order to support the development of partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels and the implementation of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. All stakeholders are encouraged to publicize their commitments and their fulfilment in support of the implementation of the present Framework, or of the national and local disaster risk management plans, through the website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## **VI. International cooperation and global partnership**

### **General considerations**

38. Given their different capacities, as well as the linkage between the level of support provided to them and the extent to which they will be able to implement the present Framework, developing countries require an enhanced provision of means of implementation, including adequate, sustainable and timely resources, through international cooperation and global partnerships for development, and continued international support, so as to strengthen their efforts to reduce disaster risk.

39. International cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk.

40. In addressing economic disparity and disparity in technological innovation and research capacity among countries, it is crucial to enhance technology transfer, involving a process of enabling and facilitating flows of skill, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology from developed to developing countries in the implementation of the present Framework.

41. Disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Such vulnerability requires the urgent strengthening of international cooperation and ensuring genuine and durable partnerships at the regional and international levels in order to support developing countries to implement the present Framework, in accordance with their national priorities and needs. Similar attention and

appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines.

42. Disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States, owing to their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and have been exacerbated by climate change, impede their progress towards sustainable development. Given the special case of small island developing States, there is a critical need to build resilience and to provide particular support through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>12</sup> in the area of disaster risk reduction.

43. African countries continue to face challenges related to disasters and increasing risks, including those related to enhancing resilience of infrastructure, health and livelihoods. These challenges require increased international cooperation and the provision of adequate support to African countries to allow for the implementation of the present Framework.

44. North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, has proven to be key to reducing disaster risk and there is a need to further strengthen cooperation in both areas. Partnerships play an additional important role by harnessing the full potential of countries and supporting their national capacities in disaster risk management and in improving the social, health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and countries.

45. Efforts by developing countries offering South-South and triangular cooperation should not reduce North-South cooperation from developed countries as they complement North-South cooperation.

46. Financing from a variety of international sources, public and private transfer of reliable, affordable, appropriate and modern environmentally sound technology, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, capacity-building assistance for developing countries and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of reducing disaster risk.

### **Means of implementation**

47. To achieve this, it is necessary:

(a) To reaffirm that developing countries need enhanced provision of coordinated, sustained and adequate international support for disaster risk reduction, in particular for the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through enhanced technical and financial support and technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities;

(b) To enhance access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information-sharing through existing mechanisms, namely bilateral, regional and multilateral collaborative arrangements, including the United Nations and other relevant bodies;

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<sup>12</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

(c) To promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation and research and ensure access to technology and information on disaster risk reduction;

(d) To incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors, as appropriate, related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change.

#### **Support from international organizations**

48. To support the implementation of the present Framework, the following is necessary:

(a) The United Nations and other international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions and donor agencies engaged in disaster risk reduction are requested, as appropriate, to enhance the coordination of their strategies in this regard;

(b) The entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes, to promote the optimum use of resources and to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the present Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks, such as the International Health Regulations (2005), including through the development and the strengthening of capacities and clear and focused programmes that support the priorities of States in a balanced, well-coordinated and sustainable manner, within their respective mandates;

(c) The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in particular, to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the present Framework by: preparing periodic reviews on progress, in particular for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and, as appropriate, in a timely manner, along with the follow-up process at the United Nations, supporting the development of coherent global and regional follow-up and indicators, and in coordination, as appropriate, with other relevant mechanisms for sustainable development and climate change, and updating the existing web-based Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor accordingly; participating actively in the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators; generating evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation in close collaboration with States and through the mobilization of experts; reinforcing a culture of prevention among relevant stakeholders through supporting development of standards by experts and technical organizations, advocacy initiatives and dissemination of disaster risk information, policies and practices, as well as by providing education and training on disaster risk reduction through affiliated organizations; supporting countries, including through national platforms or their equivalent, in their development of national plans and monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, loss and impacts; convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in cooperation with regional organizations; leading the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; facilitating the enhancement of, and continuing to service, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Scientific and Technical Advisory Group in mobilizing science and technical work on disaster risk reduction; leading, in close coordination with States, the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”, in line with the terminology agreed upon by States; and maintaining the stakeholders’ commitment registry;

(d) International financial institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, to consider the priorities of the present Framework for providing financial support and loans for integrated disaster risk reduction to developing countries;

(e) Other international organizations and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, international financial institutions at the global and regional levels and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the present Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks;

(f) The United Nations Global Compact, as the main United Nations initiative for engagement with the private sector and business, to further engage with and promote the critical importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development and resilience;

(g) The overall capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries in disaster risk reduction should be strengthened by providing adequate resources through various funding mechanisms, including increased, timely, stable and predictable contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and by enhancing the role of the Trust Fund in relation to the implementation of the present Framework;

(h) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and other relevant regional bodies and mechanisms for parliamentarians, as appropriate, to continue supporting and advocating disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of national legal frameworks;

(i) The United Cities and Local Government organization and other relevant bodies of local governments to continue supporting cooperation and mutual learning among local governments for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the present Framework.

### **Follow-up actions**

49. The Conference invites the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, to consider the possibility of including the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 as part of its integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor system.

50. The Conference recommends to the General Assembly the establishment, at its sixty-ninth session, of an open-ended intergovernmental working group, comprising experts nominated by Member States, and supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the

development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the present Framework in conjunction with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group On Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Conference also recommends that the working group consider the recommendations of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction” by December 2016, and that the outcome of its work be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration and adoption.

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Seventy-third session  
Agenda item 75 (a)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 2018

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.61 and A/73/L.61/Add.1)]

### 73/139. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations<sup>1</sup> and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,<sup>2</sup>

*Reaffirming* the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

*Expressing grave concern* at the increasing challenges caused by the unprecedented number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including protracted displacement, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, and expressing deep concern about the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, epidemics, natural hazards, environmental degradation, armed conflicts and acts of terrorism, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises,

<sup>1</sup> [A/73/78-E/2018/54](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/73/170](#).





*Underscoring* the need, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, to better align, wherever appropriate, humanitarian and development assistance with national development priorities and strategies, and encouraging Member States, as well as the United Nations system and regional organizations in supporting the efforts of Member States, to tackle the root causes of humanitarian crises, including poverty and underdevelopment, build the resilience of affected States, including host communities, and reduce humanitarian needs,

*Concerned* about the growing gap between humanitarian needs and resources, welcoming non-traditional donors, and emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance, based on and in proportion to assessed risks and needs, with a view to planning for, mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from humanitarian emergencies,

*Recognizing*, in this regard, the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to increase the level of the Fund to 1 billion United States dollars,

*Recognizing also* the significant achievements of country-based pooled funds in facilitating assistance to people in need, noting the Secretary-General's call for donors to increase the proportion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through country-based pooled funds, and noting also that other pooled funding mechanisms can make important contributions,

*Emphasizing* that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, in coordination with affected States, including through the use of open and disaggregated data, are crucial elements to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises,

*Reiterating* the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance and integrate a gender perspective into all disaster risk reduction efforts, including by addressing the specific needs, and promoting the priorities and capacities, of women, girls, men and boys in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and also respecting and protecting their rights, recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, women, girls and boys face heightened risks to their safety, health and well-being, and also reiterating that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes,

*Reiterating also* the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to improve accountability at all levels to the needs of affected populations, and recognizing the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making,

*Recognizing* that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple barriers in accessing assistance, recalling the need for the involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes and for mainstreaming, where possible, their perspectives and needs in humanitarian preparedness and response, and in this regard recalling the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Expressing its deep concern* about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a

result of the consequences of disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and reaffirming the need for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>3</sup>

*Welcoming* the Paris Agreement<sup>4</sup> and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>5</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reaffirming* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>6</sup> and noting the commitments undertaken therein by Member States regarding persons affected by humanitarian crises in urban areas,

*Recognizing* the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,<sup>7</sup> including those that become humanitarian crises, highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority of international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

*Recognizing also* that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to human and economic loss resulting from natural hazards, and recognizing further the need for strengthening international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

*Recognizing further* that inclusive economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

*Recognizing*, in this respect, that building national and local preparedness and response capacity through, inter alia, appropriate, inclusive and conducive public policies and international assistance, is critical to a more predictable and effective response and contributes to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

*Emphasizing* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>7</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

*Recognizing* the high number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the unprecedented number of people who are forcibly displaced, of whom a majority are women and children, owing to conflict, acts of terrorism, persecution, violence and other reasons, and who are often displaced for protracted periods, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs,

*Noting* the need for increased awareness of the international community regarding the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of the millions living in protracted situations of displacement, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection for internally displaced persons, supporting host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

*Reaffirming* the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,<sup>8</sup>

*Expressing concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizing that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizing the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions,

*Noting with great concern* that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this,

*Recognizing* the importance of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949,<sup>9</sup> which provides a vital legal framework for the protection of civilian persons in time of war, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

*Strongly condemning* all acts of violence, including direct attacks, against humanitarian personnel and facilities, as well as against medical personnel and other humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which in a majority of cases affect locally recruited personnel, noting with concern the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and welcoming efforts such as the Health Care in Danger project of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness, and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

*Recalling* the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

*Noting with grave concern* that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against children, including sexual violence, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations during and after humanitarian situations,

*Recognizing* that, while women and girls are disproportionately affected, men and boys can also be victims and/or survivors of sexual and gender-based violence,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts that Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors continue to make to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response based on needs, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, identifying and integrating appropriate innovation into humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery, increasing transparency, reducing duplication, strengthening partnerships with local and national responders as appropriate, enhancing flexible, predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders,

*Noting with grave concern* that children and youth continue to lack education in situations of complex emergencies, and emphasizing the urgent need for increased financing and more efficient delivery of quality education in humanitarian emergencies,

*Recognizing* that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the United Nations system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national Governments,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the twenty-first humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2018,<sup>10</sup> and also

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<sup>10</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/73/3)*, chap. X.

welcomes the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/11](#) of 21 June 2018;

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with all Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Encourages* Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, at the global and field levels, including on policy, in order to foster a more consultative and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the continued efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

6. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more proactively and systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches, including those from large-scale natural disasters and humanitarian crises of a protracted nature, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through facilitating access to information and communications technologies;

7. *Welcomes* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global, regional and field levels, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

9. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant

humanitarian non-governmental organizations, other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant stakeholders;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

11. *Calls upon* the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to enhance their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

12. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to continue to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, ensuring, inter alia, full implementation of the management and accountability system of the Group and the resident coordinator system;

13. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on concrete measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

14. *Also recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need for enhancing the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

15. *Urges* Member States to continue to give priority to efforts to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity, to ensure that humanitarian relief integrates prevention of, and risk mitigation for, sexual and gender-based violence and makes greater use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and to strengthen support services for victims, survivors and others affected by such violence beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response, taking into account their unique and specific needs resulting from the impact of such violence, and notes the Call to Action initiative;

16. *Underscores* the critical importance of protecting all persons affected by humanitarian crises, in particular women and children, from any form of sexual exploitation and abuse, including those perpetrated by humanitarian personnel, welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and stresses that victims and survivors should be at the core of such efforts, notes the six core principles relating to sexual exploitation and abuse adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,<sup>11</sup> and encourages Member States to make greater efforts to

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<sup>11</sup> [A/57/465](#), annex I, para. 10 (a).

prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;

17. *Urges* Member States to continue to seek to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute violations and abuses against children, including exploitation, in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for children affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those who have experienced violations and abuses, and calls for a more effective response in that regard, guided by the rights of the child;

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>3</sup> to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers, of considering the impact of climate change and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

19. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and relevant humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support multi-year investment, when possible, in preparedness, response and coordination capacities, and build the capacity at all levels of government, including local government, of organizations and of communities, particularly in communities exposed to disasters, to better prepare for hazards, reduce disaster risk and the risk of displacement within the context of disasters, build resilience and better respond to and recover from and build back better after disasters, and also calls upon all relevant stakeholders to complement, rather than substitute for or displace, national capacities to respond to crises, especially where those crises are prolonged or recurrent;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to provide adequate, sustainable and timely resources for disaster risk reduction in order to build resilience and reduce the risk of displacement within the context of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change, including through complementary humanitarian and development programming and the further strengthening of national and local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

21. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors to reinforce preparedness and response capabilities in relation to those outbreaks of infectious disease that trigger or exacerbate a humanitarian crisis, including by fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),<sup>7</sup> and calls upon the United Nations humanitarian system and humanitarian organizations to respond rapidly, based on the level 3 activation procedure for infectious disease events in humanitarian contexts, in close coordination with affected States;

22. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, to address non-communicable diseases and their risk factors and to treat people living with them in humanitarian emergencies;

23. *Encourages* closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in coordination with Member States, to ensure that all relevant actors work together, in accordance with their mandates, towards common results with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years, based on shared understanding of the context and each actor's operational strengths, in support of

national priorities, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

24. *Encourages* humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint analysis and multi-year programming and planning cycles;

25. *Encourages* the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and development organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream preparedness, early action and early recovery into their programming, acknowledges that preparedness, early action and early recovery should receive further funding, and in this regard encourages the provision of timely, flexible, predictable and adequate resources, including from both humanitarian and development budgets, as appropriate;

26. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition;

27. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

28. *Condemns* strongly the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and prohibited by international humanitarian law;

29. *Expresses concern* about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and health-care services, including mental health and psychosocial services, in humanitarian emergencies, and notes with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels, including those that systematically identify and integrate innovative approaches and share best practices, that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

30. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems, especially early warning systems, for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards, and especially to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard warning systems;

31. *Welcomes* the growing number of Member States and regional organizations that have taken steps to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages others to do so, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners;

32. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and



community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable assistance, and encourages the United Nations and other relevant organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, under the Common Framework for Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, and expertise to developing countries and through support to enhance the coordination capacities and build capacity in science and technology of affected States;

33. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

34. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, where appropriate, including through multi-year funding and prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience, such as, but not limited to, cash-based transfers, local procurement of food and services, including for school feeding programmes, and social safety nets;

35. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to respond more effectively to needs in humanitarian contexts by, inter alia, scaling up social protection policies and cash-based transfer mechanisms, where feasible, including multipurpose cash programming, as appropriate, to offer affected people flexibility on how to meet their humanitarian needs, and to support the development of local markets and strengthen national and local capacities, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations humanitarian organizations to continue building their capacity to systematically consider cash-based transfer programming, alongside other forms of humanitarian assistance;

36. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to improve, where possible, fast and flexible financing for preparedness, early action, early response and early recovery, and in this regard encourages exploring, developing and, where appropriate, the strengthening of innovative and anticipatory mechanisms and approaches, such as forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance, to reduce the impact of disasters and address humanitarian needs;

37. *Takes note* of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, calls upon the United Nations and relevant partners to support capacity-building of Member States, and calls upon Member States to continue to provide funding to humanitarian country-based pooled funds;

38. *Encourages* Member States, and calls upon relevant humanitarian organizations, to work closely with national institutions, including local governments and the private sector, as appropriate, to examine effective, context-specific ways to be better prepared for, respond to and recover from increasing emergencies in urban areas, which may have an impact on the provision of such life-saving essential services as water, energy and health care;

39. *Reaffirms* the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels, including for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, in this regard recognizes that access to quality education in humanitarian emergencies can contribute to long-term development goals and reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law, strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes, when in contravention of international humanitarian law, and encourages efforts to promote safe and protective school environments in humanitarian emergencies;

40. *Calls upon* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations organizations to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible, disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response;

41. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development of coordinated and comprehensive needs assessment tools, such as multisector initial rapid assessments, the implementation of joint, impartial and timely needs assessments and prioritized needs-based humanitarian response plans, in consultation with the affected States, in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action to meet the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies;

42. *Encourages* Member States to commit and to disburse in a timely fashion humanitarian funding based on, and in accordance with, the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

43. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to explore innovative risk-sharing mechanisms and to base risk management funding on objective data;

44. *Encourages* United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further advance efficiencies in delivering assistance through reducing management costs, harmonizing partnership agreements, providing transparent and comparable cost structures, and strengthening measures to achieve greater accountability by taking further actions to reduce fraud, waste and abuse and identify ways to share incident reports and other information among United Nations agencies, where appropriate;

45. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response, to take measures to ensure the full participation of women, girls, men and boys, including persons with disabilities and older persons, in all stages of decision-making, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, reduce gender inequalities and ensure that humanitarian assistance is informed, adapted, appropriate and effective, and to take into account the specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, girls, men and boys, taking into consideration age and disability, in the design of needs assessments and the implementation of all programming, including by seeking to ensure the provision of access to the full range of medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, without discrimination, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker;

46. *Recognizes* the important role that women can play as first responders, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian organizations to support women's leadership and meaningful participation in the planning and implementation of response strategies, including by strengthening partnerships and building the capacities of national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations, and other civil society actors, as appropriate;

47. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure non-discrimination and opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in humanitarian preparedness and response;

48. *Calls upon* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in coordination with Member States, to engage all people affected by disasters and crises, in particular those most at risk, including through communication, enabling their participation in relevant processes and supporting their efforts and capacities to meet their different needs, while taking into account, as appropriate, their culture, traditions and local customs;

49. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms and methodologies for improving the quality, transparency, reliability, compatibility and comparability of common humanitarian needs assessments, needs data and analysis, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and taking into account environmental impact, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

50. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, including local governments, relevant local organizations and other actors, as well as affected populations, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations in the planning and implementation of humanitarian assistance, and making greater efforts in this regard, so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed;

51. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to identify better ways of working to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, in order to effectively meet the needs of affected populations, including by harmonizing and, where possible, simplifying reporting requirements, increasing the flexibility of humanitarian funding, including through reduced earmarking and further minimizing the duplication of costs, and making more use of innovation in humanitarian response;

52. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs and to mobilize support for addressing underfunded and forgotten emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds, including the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds, and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship<sup>12</sup> and to improve burden-sharing among donors, and in this respect encourages the private sector, civil society

<sup>12</sup> [A/58/99-E/2003/94](#), annex II.

and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to those of other sources;

53. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

54. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund and that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

55. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector and all relevant individuals and institutions to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to country-based pooled funds and, as appropriate, other pooled funding mechanisms, to facilitate humanitarian assistance to people in need;

56. *Calls upon* Member States that are in a position to do so and development and humanitarian partners, in their efforts to provide flexible resources, to consider ways of better mainstreaming the need for preparedness and building resilience in the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, including reconstruction and rehabilitation, inter alia, with a view to ensuring smooth transition from relief to development;

57. *Calls upon* all Member States that are in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to humanitarian emergencies, including through flexible, unearmarked and multi-year funding where possible, in this context reiterates that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding, and underscores the importance of adequate, timely and flexible voluntary funding for the Office to enable it to carry out its mandate;

58. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, energy and information and communications technologies, where possible, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

59. *Also encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that women and girls have access to basic health-care services, including reliable and safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and mental health and psychosocial support, from the onset of emergencies, in this regard recognizes that such assistance protects women, adolescent girls and infants from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors to give such programmes due consideration;

60. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

61. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

62. *Calls upon* Member States to take steps to ensure the international protection of and respect for the rights of refugees, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement and adequate standards of treatment in accordance with international law, including, as applicable, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>13</sup> and international human rights obligations;

63. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems as a tool of protection and as a means of carrying out the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, and underlines the importance of increasing accountability to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its beneficiaries;

64. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, encourages States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to enhance the protection of civilians, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, girls, boys and men, older persons and persons with disabilities;

65. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and notes the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics;

66. *Also urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, urges States to conduct, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of

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<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law, and urges Member States to scale up their efforts to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel;

67. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity and to ensure that those responsible for violations are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

68. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

69. *Urges* States, while undertaking counter-terrorism activities, to respect their international obligations, including whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, in particular regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations, as well as recognizes the key role humanitarian organizations play in the provision of principled humanitarian assistance, while also recognizing the importance of preventing and suppressing the financing of and other forms of support to terrorism;

70. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement<sup>14</sup> as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and that forced displacement is not only a humanitarian but also a development challenge, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons and in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement by adopting and implementing long-term strategies and coherent multi-year planning, including in relation to issues such as livelihoods, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States and encourages humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, including with development organizations, to better address the needs of internally displaced persons in support of Member States to promote durable solutions;

71. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the efforts of the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to “stay and deliver” its most critical programmes even in high-risk environments by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to adapt quickly to changes in local security conditions;

72. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include, as part of their risk management strategy, the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors, including religious leaders where appropriate, in

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<sup>14</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

73. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly, effectively and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

74. *Takes note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit;<sup>15</sup>

75. *Urges* all countries to integrate into their respective national policies and development frameworks the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>16</sup> and urges Member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to work together to reduce the needs and build the resilience of the most vulnerable in order to contribute to the achievement of the Goals included in the 2030 Agenda, including the call to leave no one behind;

76. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

*54th plenary meeting  
14 December 2018*

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<sup>15</sup> [A/71/353](#).

<sup>16</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 70 (b)

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

## **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2019**

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/74/399/Add.2)*]

### **74/160. Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling* that internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border,<sup>1</sup>

*Deeply disturbed* by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, for reasons including violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, armed conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, as well as natural and human-made disasters, who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenges that this is creating for host communities, national and local authorities and the international community,

*Recalling* the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders and the potential for such persons to seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants, and noting the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons in this regard, including the need for comprehensive and disaggregated data and other measures aimed at preventing and reducing such displacements,

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<sup>1</sup> See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex), introduction, para. 2.





*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council, reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming further the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

*Emphasizing* that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, without discrimination, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem and to support all durable solutions in appropriate cooperation with those displaced, their hosts, civil society, local authorities, development actors, the private sector and the international community,

*Expressing particular concern* at the increased level of discrimination experienced by internally displaced persons, including those who may be in particularly vulnerable situations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and emphasizing the need to ensure that their specific needs are met through the provision of adequate protection and access to assistance,

*Noting* the need to address the root causes of displacement and for increased awareness within the international community of the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of millions living in protracted situations of displacement, many of them outside camp settings and in urban areas, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons,

*Recognizing* that violations of international humanitarian law can cause displacement, and recalling that displacement could be reduced if international humanitarian law was respected by all parties to armed conflict, in particular the fundamental principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, as well as the prohibition of forced displacement of the civilian population, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand,<sup>2</sup>

*Expressing deep concern* at the threat posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices to internally displaced persons fleeing conflict, impeding, in certain instances, their voluntary return, local integration and resettlement and the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, and noting the urgency of providing protection from landmines and other explosive remnants of war and supporting host communities and local organizations,

*Expressing particular concern* that many internally displaced children, in particular girls, lack access to education in all phases of displacement owing to attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, insecurity, the prevalence of violence, including gender-based violence, in and around schools, loss of documentation, language barriers and discrimination,

*Expressing particular concern also* that many internally displaced persons, including women, men, girls and boys, do not receive the health care they require in all phases of displacement, including mental health care and psychosocial support,

*Recognizing* the increase in the number, scale and frequency of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and additional pressure on host

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<sup>2</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17513), arts. 13 and 17.

communities, encouraging the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen efforts in cooperation with national Governments aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced internally by natural disasters, including those exacerbated by climate change, and noting in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements,

*Expressing concern* that many millions of people are displaced each year by sudden- and slow-onset disasters, recognizing that building resilience of nations and communities, including through preparedness, prevention, disaster risk reduction and climate-change adaptation measures can reduce disaster displacement risk, including through integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national, regional and global development policies and programmes, and in this regard recognizing also the important role of sustainable development in averting and reducing the risk of loss and damage,

*Recognizing* that the vulnerability of internally displaced persons may increase when their host communities are affected by disasters,

*Conscious* of the human rights, humanitarian and development dimensions, as well as the possible peacebuilding and transitional justice dimensions, of internal displacement, including in protracted and repeated temporary displacement situations, and the responsibilities of States, with the support of the international community, to ensure the provision of protection and assistance, including by respecting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all internally displaced persons, with a view to finding durable solutions,

*Recognizing* the important contributions made by national and local authorities and host communities to protect and assist internally displaced persons, acknowledging that the hosting of large groups of internally displaced persons can put pressure on those authorities and communities, and recognizing also the importance of adequately supporting host communities, as well as local capacities, by addressing their needs,

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>3</sup> regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement, and recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [72/182](#) of 19 December 2017 and Human Rights Council resolution [41/15](#) of 11 July 2019,<sup>4</sup>

*Recognizing* that internally displaced persons are to enjoy, in full equality and without discrimination, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country, including the right to freedom of movement and residence, and should be protected against arbitrary displacement,

*Recalling* the relevant norms of international law, which includes international human rights law, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> as well as international refugee law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949<sup>6</sup> and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,<sup>7</sup> as applicable, as a vital legal framework for the protection of and assistance to civilians in armed conflict and under foreign occupation, including internally displaced persons,

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<sup>3</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

*Recognizing* that internally displaced persons, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, without identity documents, may be at risk of human rights violations and abuses, and may face difficulties in the realization of their rights and in accessing services,

*Recognizing also* that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,<sup>8</sup>

*Welcoming* the increasing dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

*Noting with appreciation* the important role of national human rights institutions, during all phases of displacement, in ensuring that all human rights issues of internally displaced persons are appropriately addressed,

*Deploring* practices of forced displacement and their negative consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by large groups of populations, and recalling the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court<sup>9</sup> that define the deportation or forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity and the unlawful deportation, transfer or ordering of the displacement of the civilian population as war crimes,

*Recognizing* the importance of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which builds on the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa, and welcoming the holding of the first Conference of States Parties to the Convention in April 2017,

*Noting* the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,<sup>10</sup> and taking note of the decision of the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of 4 October 2011 endorsing the preliminary framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict,

*Underlining* the necessity of safe and unhindered humanitarian access for the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations to internally displaced persons, including those residing in conflict areas, in accordance with international law,

*Recognizing* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>11</sup> seeks to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons, and that addressing the needs of internally displaced persons can help countries to achieve their overall development goals,

*Noting* the increasing number of internally displaced persons outside camps and in urban areas and the need to meet their immediate and their long-term needs, and the needs of host families, and recognizing the importance of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

<sup>10</sup> A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

*Taking note* of the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit,<sup>13</sup> which contains, inter alia, recommendations to strengthen partnerships between Member States and humanitarian and development actors to address the urgent and long-term needs of internally displaced persons,

*Noting* the need for finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary and sustainable return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

*Emphasizing* that all durable solutions for internally displaced persons should be approached from a humanitarian and development perspective, involving the timely engagement of internally displaced persons and host communities,

*Mindful* of the significant humanitarian and development assistance required to meet the needs of people in protracted situations of internal displacement and of the large gap between needs and resources,

*Recognizing* the need to collect reliable, timely, longitudinal and disaggregated data, including data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location, on internally displaced persons and the impact of new and protracted displacement on host communities in order to improve policy and programming, preventive measures on and response to internal displacement and to promote the achievement of durable solutions, including, in this respect, the relevance of the Global Internal Displacement Database maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support available from the inter-agency Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service, and noting the initiative of the United Nations Statistical Commission to develop international recommendations on internally displaced persons statistics,

*Expressing its appreciation* to those Governments and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have supported and facilitated the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and of her predecessors, the former representatives of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and have helped, according to their roles and responsibilities, to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

*Welcoming* the continuing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and national Governments and the relevant offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as with other international and regional organizations, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better strategies for, protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the important and independent contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in cooperation with national Governments and relevant international bodies,

*Welcoming* the priorities set by the Special Rapporteur as contained in the report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session<sup>14</sup> and the two strategic objectives of supporting Governments in developing national instruments and

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<sup>13</sup> [A/71/353](#).

<sup>14</sup> [A/HRC/35/27](#).

institutions on internal displacement and facilitating viable, durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through the engagement of development actors,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the main report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons<sup>15</sup> and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far, for the catalytic role that she plays in raising the level of awareness about the plight of internally displaced persons and for her ongoing efforts to address their development and other specific needs, including through the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue her analysis of the reasons for internal displacement and to remain apprised of the needs and human rights of those who are displaced, including the needs of those who may be in particularly vulnerable situations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, the level of emergency preparedness and ways to strengthen protection and assistance, including by enhancing the role of national human rights institutions, where appropriate, and the protection of internally displaced persons, as well as durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including by addressing possible obstacles to the exercise of housing, land and property rights for internally displaced persons, also encourages the Special Rapporteur, with regard to the latter, to use, in her activities, the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,<sup>10</sup> and further encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to advocate the needs of host communities and promote comprehensive strategies, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe, to address the protection, assistance and development needs of internally displaced persons and to find durable solutions for them, and encourages regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Special Rapporteur;

5. *Urges* all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the Special Rapporteur, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, and to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur to enable her to continue and enhance dialogue with Governments in addressing situations of internal displacement, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

6. *Invites* Governments to give serious consideration, in dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, to the recommendations and suggestions addressed to them, in accordance with her mandate, and to inform her of measures taken thereon;

7. *Welcomes* the use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement<sup>8</sup> by the Special Rapporteur in her dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests her to continue her efforts to further their dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of domestic legislation and policies;

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<sup>15</sup> A/HRC/41/40.

8. *Recognizes* that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for their internally displaced persons, as well as to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights, thus contributing to their national, economic and social development processes, and encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the Special Rapporteur, relevant international and regional organizations and donor countries to continue to support international, regional and national efforts to meet the needs and fulfil the human rights of internally displaced persons, including children, on the basis of solidarity, the principles of international cooperation and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and to ensure that humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development assistance efforts are appropriately funded;

9. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the protection of and better assistance to internally displaced persons, in particular to address the challenges of protracted displacement, by adopting and implementing gender-sensitive policies and strategies, in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages all relevant actors, in accordance with their mandates, to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons and in finding solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

10. *Encourages* States to ensure that internally displaced persons, including children, have access to a process to obtain appropriate identification documents;

11. *Notes* the launch of the multi-stakeholder Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018–2020 (GP20) to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* for the fact that an increasing number of States have adopted domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement, encourages States to continue to do so in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way, consistent with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, urges States to increase their efforts to implement such domestic laws and policies, including through the identification of national focal points within Governments for issues of internal displacement, in particular for setting national targets and indicators for policy and programmes and for the allocation of budget resources, and encourages the international community and national actors to provide financial support and cooperation to Governments, upon request, in this regard;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons and to facilitate the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in this regard by allowing and facilitating safe and unhindered access for humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment to internally displaced persons, in accordance with international law, by maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for internally displaced persons, where they exist, and by taking the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel so that they may efficiently perform their task of assisting internally displaced persons;

14. *Expresses particular concern* about the full range of threats, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law experienced by many internally displaced persons, including women and children, who are

particularly vulnerable or specifically targeted especially for sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in persons in all its forms,<sup>16</sup> forced recruitment and abduction, encourages the continued commitment of the Special Rapporteur to promote action to address their particular assistance and protection needs, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons who are victims of the above-mentioned threats, violations and abuses, as well as other groups of internally displaced persons with special needs, such as severely traumatized individuals, older persons and persons with disabilities, taking into account all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

15. *Encourages* the international community to provide technical cooperation to States affected by displacement, upon their request, including for the training of staff members of institutions in charge of registration and development of national laws and policies on internal displacement and issues related to land and property restitution and compensation;

16. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in the coordination of the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the inter-agency cluster system, welcomes continued initiatives to ensure better protection, assistance and development strategies for internally displaced persons, as well as better coordination of activities regarding them, and emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of national and local authorities, host communities, local organizations, United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenges of internal displacement;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to the issue of internally displaced persons in humanitarian response plans, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of communication and consultation with internally displaced persons and host communities by Governments and other relevant actors, in accordance with their specific mandates, during all phases of displacement, as well as the participation of internally displaced persons, where appropriate, in policies, programmes and activities pertaining to them, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

19. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to provide for and support, in particular, the full and meaningful participation of internally displaced women at all levels of decision-making processes and in all activities that have a direct impact on their lives, in all aspects of internal displacement, including the promotion and protection of human rights, the prevention of human rights violations and the design and implementation of durable solutions, peace processes, peacebuilding, transitional justice, post-conflict reconstruction and development;

20. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and humanitarian assistance, human rights and development organizations to enhance their collaboration and coordination through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and United Nations country teams in countries with situations of internal displacement and to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur, and

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<sup>16</sup> As defined in article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574).

requests the continued participation of the Special Rapporteur in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

21. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to enhance coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and predictability in preventing, responding to and finding solutions to internal displacement;

22. *Expresses deep concern* at the insufficient funding levels of humanitarian appeals, and in this respect urges all relevant actors to provide the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations with sufficient and predictable resources to ensure adequate support for those who are forcibly displaced;

23. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, with a view to preventing forced displacement and promoting the protection of civilians, and calls upon Governments to take measures to respect and protect the human rights of all internally displaced persons, without distinction of any kind, in accordance with their applicable obligations under international law;

24. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with all other relevant actors, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, to ensure the right to a quality education, including primary and secondary education, for internally displaced children, without discrimination of any kind, as well as to support existing schools to enable them to include internally displaced persons, calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools and other educational institutions and to refrain from undertaking actions that could adversely affect the protection of these buildings against direct attacks, and strongly condemns all attacks, as well as threats of attack, against schools, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

25. *Highlights* the need for States, with the support of relevant partners, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, as appropriate, to address the physical and mental health needs of internally displaced persons, which may include assistance, health care and psychosocial and other counselling services;

26. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations, as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, urges States and all parties to armed conflict to develop and integrate effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and strongly urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, including internally displaced persons, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, to take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims, including internally displaced persons;

27. *Recognizes* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, among other factors, contribute to human displacement, and in this regard notes the adoption of



the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in March 2015,<sup>17</sup> the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015<sup>18</sup> and relevant initiatives related to internal displacement, such as the Nansen Initiative, and their follow-up processes, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent and prepare for displacement or to provide assistance through well-planned recovery programmes that support internally displaced persons and their hosts and provide protection to those who are forced to flee;

28. *Affirms* the need for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 to integrate, as appropriate, post-disaster reconstruction and recovery, including the principle of “build back better”, into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas, as well as temporary settlements where displaced persons live, to promote periodic disaster preparedness and response exercises in recovery and resettlement efforts, with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, and to promote transboundary cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including displacement risk, including by establishing or improving early warning systems, including heatwave early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems and supported by public awareness campaigns, recognizing that early action following quality forecasts can reduce the impact of extreme weather events;

29. *Recognizes* that internal displacement is not only a humanitarian but also a development challenge, and in some cases can also be a peacebuilding challenge, and calls upon States to provide durable solutions and address possible obstacles in this regard and to include the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of internally displaced persons and host communities in their national development plans;

30. *Encourages* closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in accordance with their respective mandates, towards collective results over multiple years, with the aim of reducing the needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

31. *Also encourages* strengthened international cooperation, in particular between humanitarian and development actors, including through the provision of resources, coherent multi-year planning that addresses protracted displacement and expertise to assist affected countries, in particular developing countries, in their national efforts and policies related to assistance, protection, resilience-building and rehabilitation for internally displaced persons and host communities, as appropriate, and the integration of the human rights and needs of internally displaced persons into both rural and urban development strategies, as well as the participation of both internally displaced persons and host communities in the design and implementation of those strategies;

32. *Calls upon* the United Nations to work closely with Member States and other relevant actors, including local governments, civil society and the private sector, in furtherance of the New Urban Agenda<sup>12</sup> in order to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and notes the importance of addressing, as appropriate, the particular needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons in urban settings and of supporting host cities, in the spirit of

<sup>17</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>18</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

international cooperation, including by ensuring equal access to income-earning opportunities and preventing arbitrary forced evictions;

33. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian agencies, donors, development actors and other providers of development assistance to continue to work together, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, including long-term development assistance for the implementation of durable solutions, with a view to reducing internal displacement;

34. *Encourages* Governments, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to promote an inclusive approach to durable solutions that addresses the needs of internally displaced persons and their host communities, including the promotion of opportunities to fully harness the human potential of the displaced populations by promoting self-sufficiency through income-generating activities and sustainable livelihood opportunities;

35. *Urges* all countries to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>11</sup> into their respective national policies and development frameworks, as appropriate, and recalls that the 2030 Agenda seeks to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons;

36. *Notes* the importance of taking the human rights and the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons into consideration, when appropriate, in peace processes, and emphasizes that durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through voluntary return, sustainable reintegration, rehabilitation and reconciliation processes and their active participation, as appropriate, in the peace process are necessary elements of effective peacebuilding;

37. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard, and continues to urge the Commission to intensify its efforts, within its mandate, in cooperation with national and transitional Governments and in consultation with the relevant United Nations entities, to incorporate the rights and the specific needs of internally displaced persons, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as related land and property issues, when advising on or proposing country-specific peacebuilding strategies for post-conflict situations in cases under consideration;

38. *Also welcomes* the dedication by the African Union of 2019 to, inter alia, mark the tenth anniversary of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), encourages African States to mark the tenth anniversary of the Kampala Convention in 2019 by signing and ratifying the Convention, if they have not done so, and encourages other regional mechanisms to develop their own regional normative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons, such as renewed commitments towards ratification and implementation of the Kampala Convention made in March 2019 by parliamentarians and national experts on internal displacement of the Economic Community of West African States participating in a regional exchange held under the auspices of the Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018–2020 (GP20) to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Kampala Convention;

39. *Encourages* Member States, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams to contribute to the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations, with the cooperation of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support and assistance of the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service, and to provide financial resources, as appropriate, in these respects;

40. *Recalls* the need to reflect on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States and the United Nations system to explore ways to better address the long-term needs of internally displaced persons, support communities that host them and improve the lives of the many millions of internally displaced persons;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur, from within existing resources, with all assistance necessary to strengthen and carry out her mandate effectively, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and all other relevant United Nations offices and agencies and related organizations, to continue to support and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur;

42. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to seek the contributions of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to create a more stable basis for her work;

43. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

44. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons at its seventy-sixth session.

*50th plenary meeting  
18 December 2019*



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
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## Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 18 (c)

### Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 2022

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/77/443/Add.3](#), para. 8)]

### 77/164. Disaster risk reduction

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/204](#) of 17 December 2021 and all previous relevant resolutions,

*Recalling also* its resolution [73/230](#) of 20 December 2018 on the effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon and all previous relevant resolutions, and recalling further the decision on this subject matter taken in decision 74/537 B of 11 August 2020,

*Recalling further* the Sendai Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>3</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>4</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>5</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development<sup>6</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),<sup>7</sup> and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.



Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>8</sup> in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Reaffirming further* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>9</sup> and recognizing the linkages between disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development,

*Recognizing* the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk, reflecting the 2030 Agenda, and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

*Reiterating* the call in the Sendai Framework for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

*Recalling* that the Sendai Framework applies to risks of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden- and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact this year and in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life, food insecurity, water-related challenges, displacement, humanitarian needs and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

*Recognizing* that disaster risk is increasingly complex and systemic and that hazards can trigger each other with cascading impacts across sectors and geographies, as well as at the local, national, regional and global levels, and that the interrelation of risks across multiple dimensions and scales and potential unintended negative consequences should inform development policies and investments, emphasizing that these policies should be oriented towards building resilience and achieving

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalling in this regard the findings contained in the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>10</sup> the *Global Sustainable Development Report* and the 2022 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, and stressing the importance of an integrated understanding of disaster risk in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement<sup>11</sup> and the Sendai Framework,

*Recognizing also* the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation,

*Noting* that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind, recalling that the peak of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon was comparable in strength to the 1982/83 and 1997/98 events and, therefore, one of the strongest on record, and affected more than 60 million people during 2015 and 2016, in particular in developing countries, with significant short- and long-term impacts on the health of individuals, the economy and food production locally, regionally and globally, particularly affecting people whose livelihood depends on agriculture, fisheries and livestock activities, and noting the impacts of the protracted La Niña phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation in recent years on heat and drought, wildfires, heavy rainfall and flooding, with implications for livelihoods and food security, and loss of biodiversity, which have combined with the impacts of climate change,

*Reaffirming* the importance of strengthening international cooperation, in the face of natural and human-made hazards, including weather-related hazards, those driven by natural climate cycles such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and the adverse effects of climate change, to estimate and prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response, early action and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to enhance resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing risk-informed strategies, risk finance tools, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems, including timely risk communication at the local, national and regional levels,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Recognizing* that it is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, expressing deep concern at the devastating impacts of COVID-19 and climate change on sustainable development, which have deepened vulnerabilities to disasters and exposure to hazards and have highlighted the urgency of implementing

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<sup>10</sup> E/2022/55.

<sup>11</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

the Sendai Framework as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and noting in this regard that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will provide opportunities for and should be accompanied by policies and focused action to understand disaster risk, strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction through a resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery, as well as to address the underlying drivers of disaster risk and build resilience across systems, integrate systemic risk management and strengthen multisectoral and multi-hazard approaches to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk finance arrangements and support sustainable and inclusive recovery, addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk,

*Recalling* the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

*Recalling* the convening of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit) on 24 and 25 September 2019 and the commitment to reducing disaster risk and building resilience contained in the adopted political declaration,<sup>12</sup> and looking forward to the next Sustainable Development Goals Summit, in September 2023,

*Recognizing* climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>13</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>14</sup>

*Recognizing also* that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Recalling* the holding of the Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September 2019, recalling also the multi-partner initiatives and commitments presented during the Summit, recalling further the Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September 2019, and taking note of the international Climate Adaptation Summit held virtually on 25 and 26 January 2021, hosted by the Netherlands,

*Noting* the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, and looking forward to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, to be held from 22 to 24 March 2023, noting that it can be a contribution to the midterm review of the Sendai Framework,

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 74/4, annex.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>14</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,

*Noting with concern* the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, the findings contained in the special report of the Panel on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, entitled *Climate Change and Land*, the findings contained in the special report of the Panel entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, and the findings contained in the contribution of Working Groups I, II, and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

*Stressing* the urgent need to address the unprecedented global decline in biodiversity, recalling with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in this regard recalling the summit on biodiversity held on 30 September 2020 and the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by China from 11 to 15 October 2021, and looking forward to the second part, to be held in Canada from 7 to 19 December 2022, which will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*Recognizing* that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, including access to climate and disaster risk finance, which often greatly exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

*Recalling* the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries<sup>15</sup> on 17 March 2022, recognizing that, guided by the principles of resilience-building and risk reduction, implementation of the Programme of Action can support the integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and social protection strategies and international support to the least developed countries, and looking forward to the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023, to raise ambition and accelerate action to reduce disaster risk in the least developed countries,

*Looking forward* to the convening of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries to raise ambition and accelerate action to reduce disaster risk in small island developing States and landlocked developing countries,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

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<sup>15</sup> Resolution [76/258](#), annex.



1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [76/204](#);<sup>16</sup>
2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;
3. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;
4. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters caused by human-made or natural hazards, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, in this regard stresses the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, and urges Member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and to enhance cooperation in disaster risk reduction;
5. *Recalls* the launch of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure and the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative;
6. *Recognizes* that in some cases the use of public debt and renewed external borrowing to absorb the impact of a disaster could lead to higher debt servicing for developing countries and constrain their growth and their capacity to invest in long-term resilience-building, and acknowledges that, with each new disaster, financial vulnerabilities may grow and domestic response capacities may weaken;
7. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets adopted in the Sendai Framework;
8. *Recognizes* progress made in achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework and that the development and implementation of risk-informed strategic plans, policies, programmes and investments and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
9. *Reaffirms* the importance of developing multi-hazard strategies at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, in line with the Sendai Framework, that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon, while recognizing ongoing national initiatives by affected countries to strengthen their capacities;
10. *Stresses* that, during neutral El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon years, it is critical to prepare for, build resilience to and reduce the risks of the next event, including through integrated plans, and calls upon the international community to provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to countries affected by the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon, prioritizing resources to developing countries;
11. *Urges* the international community to accelerate progress and allocate the resources necessary to support the development and implementation of inclusive and participatory, multi-hazard national and local disaster risk reduction strategies with a broadened scope beyond preparedness and response to include a focus on risk reduction and prevention, in line with the Sendai Framework, with a particular focus

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<sup>16</sup> [A/77/293](#).

on local strategies and programmes, to promote coherence and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies including national adaptation plans, as well as sector-specific plans, to include the objective of preparing to build back better through sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery in disaster risk reduction strategies and, where appropriate, to incorporate considerations regarding the risk of disaster displacement, in accordance with national circumstances, making use of practical guidance to support the achievement of target (e), and recalls in this regard the relevant voluntary “Words into action” guidelines;

12. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national and local disaster risk governance by implementing the whole-of-government and all-of-society approaches through establishing or strengthening national platforms for disaster risk reduction, or similar mechanisms, for multisectoral and inter-institutional coordination, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for disaster risk reduction across ministries and institutions and at the national, subnational and local levels, and by expanding disaster risk reduction beyond national disaster management and civil protection authorities, or equivalent agencies, to include all branches of government and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and welcomes the “Making Cities Resilient 2030” initiative in support of local capacities for disaster risk governance;

13. *Expresses concern* that countries affected by protracted humanitarian crises and emergencies are among those most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and are furthest behind in implementing the Sendai Framework, and recognizes that implementation of the Sendai Framework can address drivers of vulnerability and exposure to build resilience and reduce humanitarian impacts and needs, and in this regard recognizes the need for multidimensional and comprehensive risk assessment and the promotion of coherence between humanitarian and development assistance, which can contribute to strengthening resilience and climate change adaptation, for a more targeted and effective approach to prevention and resilience-building;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision to hold a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practices, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030, also reaffirms its decision to hold a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023 at the highest possible level, which shall consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment, interactive multi-stakeholder panels and a closing segment, and its decision that the high-level meeting shall adopt a concise and action-oriented political declaration to renew commitment and accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations led by two co-facilitators to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, and to be submitted by the President of the Assembly for adoption by the Assembly, requests the President of the Assembly, in consultation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to finalize the preparatory process and organizational arrangements for the meeting, with any additional costs to be met through voluntary contributions, and invites States to assess progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels and to share findings, good practices and recommendations with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be included in a report on the midterm review, which will also take into consideration the stocktaking, thematic reviews and outcomes of the global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction that will inform the midterm review process;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of monitoring the Sendai Framework, encourages States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets by referring to the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction,<sup>17</sup> also encourages States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, educational, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information, and enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems, and in this regard further encourages efforts to create or enhance systems for data collection and to support the capacity of national statistical offices to integrate data from the Sendai Framework monitor into official national statistics to enhance and institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors and all relevant ministries and institutions, and to prioritize the collection and analysis of data on disaster loss and the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases, and to develop baselines on current losses, working towards the collection of information on historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

16. *Urges* States to conduct inclusive and multi-hazard disaster risk assessments that consider climate change projections to support evidence-based disaster risk reduction strategies and guide risk-informed development investments by the private and public sectors, including comprehensive disaster risk reduction financing strategies, to support early action and recovery;

17. *Encourages* States to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, investment in and the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries for the development of science and technology and in strengthening capacities for multidimensional and multi-hazard risk assessment, risk analytics and strategic foresight, and capitalize on the risk data and risk modelling capacity of the private sector, including development of tools for multi-hazard risk assessments, and in this regard takes note of the ongoing work on the Global Risk Assessment Framework and Risk Information Exchange;

18. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, encourages all States, United Nations entities and other relevant actors to promote nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, among other approaches for disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and reiterates the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as providing long-term and affordable investments in these approaches to reduce the impacts and costs of disasters;

19. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities, in particular in developing countries through, inter alia, the exchange of best practices, technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches;

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<sup>17</sup> [A/71/644](#).

20. *Acknowledges* the importance of community-driven disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts, and supports efforts to scale up community-level pre-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning;

21. *Also acknowledges* that water is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, that water-related disasters and multidimensional hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, agriculture and basic service infrastructure and cause substantial socioeconomic damage and losses, and that sustainable, integrated disaster risk-informed water resource management is necessary for successful disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, in this regard invites all countries to integrate land and water management, including for floods and droughts, into their national and subnational planning and management processes, and reiterates that the achievement of the water-related goals and targets would contribute to the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework;

22. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to address the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, prioritizing tools that strengthen resilience to current crises and future shocks, and integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective aimed at improving food security and nutrition;

23. *Recognizes* that the Sendai Framework, including its core provision to “build back better”, provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner, that biological hazards require strengthened systematic coordination, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructure and strengthened health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),<sup>18</sup> as well as increasing the overall capacity of health systems, including through the application of the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate, to reduce overall disaster risk and build disaster resilience, while also recognizing the value of integrated approaches, including the One Health approach and other holistic approaches that foster cooperation between human health, animal health and plant health as well as environmental and other relevant sectors;

24. *Also recognizes* that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard and systemic approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of data disaggregated by, inter alia, income, sex, age and disability, and analysis with an adequate understanding of how the information is to be interpreted and used, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, interoperable, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, for a wide range of users and decision makers, complemented by traditional knowledge, and in this regard encourages States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection and analysis of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, and invites Member States to mobilize national statistical and planning offices and other relevant authorities, and strengthen their capacity in the systemic collection, analysis and validation of disaster risk data to institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors;

25. *Further recognizes* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2018 of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services

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<sup>18</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

for Disasters,<sup>19</sup> as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and which contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and encourages the application of space-based technologies and geospatial information systems as a cost-effective input to disaster risk assessments;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to and systemic risk management of disaster risk reduction, reflecting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that disaster prevention, preparedness, early and anticipatory actions, and resilience-building, in most cases, are significantly more cost-effective than emergency responses, stresses the importance of promoting the further development of and investment in effective national and regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, and facilitating the sharing and exchange of information across all countries, welcomes the call by the Secretary-General for a United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years as an accelerator towards the achievement of target (g) of the Sendai Framework, recognizes the importance of the CREWS initiative in achieving that goal and takes note with appreciation of the findings of the *Global Status of Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems: Target (g)* report, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach in the implementation of the early warning action plan presented at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

27. *Encourages* States to use the online Sendai Framework monitor to report on progress against the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk to provide, inter alia, a comprehensive overview of progress to inform the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and recalls the ongoing work towards integrated national climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies as well as the Sendai Framework targets, and further recalls ongoing work under the Paris Agreement<sup>20</sup> on the global goal on adaptation;

28. *Encourages* countries to apply a comprehensive approach to disaster and climate risk management and to establish or strengthen policy, programmatic and financing coherence between national climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as sector-specific plans, as appropriate, and apply the Sendai Framework for the effective implementation of all the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement;<sup>21</sup>

29. *Reaffirms* that the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13, as well as in the monitoring of the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>22</sup> are important contributions to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, the collection of data and reporting, calls for coherence between the Sendai Framework global targets and the monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, and in this regard recognizes the importance of prioritizing capacity-building support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small

<sup>19</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/14, annex.

<sup>20</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>21</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>22</sup> Resolution 69/15, annex.

island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges;

30. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>23</sup> where it is reflected across several Goals and targets, including in their voluntary national reviews, inter alia, through the engagement of national Sendai Framework focal points early in the national review process, as appropriate, and stresses the importance of considering disaster risk reduction in the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and integrating disaster risk reduction across the work of the Economic and Social Council, including as a contribution to the midterm review of the Sendai Framework in 2023;

31. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>24</sup> the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>25</sup> the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>26</sup> and the New Urban Agenda, while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, translate integrated global policy frameworks, as appropriate, into national laws, policies or regulations defining roles and responsibilities across the public and private sectors, as well as into integrated multisectoral programmes at the national and local levels, and reduce disaster risk across sectors, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

32. *Recognizes* the important work and contribution of regional and subregional organizations in advancing cooperation in disaster risk reduction at the regional level, encourages greater engagement and partnership between the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional organizations to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and also encourages the participation of regional and subregional organizations in the midterm review of the Sendai Framework;

33. *Encourages* countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated, inclusive and participatory disaster risk governance across sectors for the achievement of sustainable development and, inter alia, the strengthening of disaster prevention as well as preparedness for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including through disaster risk reduction and response financing;

34. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform

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<sup>23</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>24</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

35. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk, and encourages States to strengthen international and regional information exchange and information-sharing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, establishing and networking risk management centres, promoting critical science and technology research cooperation on disaster reduction and improving international coordination mechanisms to respond to largescale disasters;

36. *Recognizes* that effective and meaningful global and regional partnerships and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management and the ability of developing countries, including those most vulnerable to disasters, to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures, taking into account their respective national circumstances and capabilities;

37. *Reaffirms* the need for the enhancement of the means of implementation and the capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

38. *Encourages* the incorporation of disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate, into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South as well as triangular cooperation, within and across all sectors related to sustainable development, and calls for international cooperation that is aligned with national disaster risk reduction strategies and more risk-informed and for alignment between national development cooperation policies and national disaster risk reduction strategies;

39. *Recognizes* that financing for disaster risk reduction requires greater attention, and in this regard encourages increased investments in disaster risk reduction, including resilient infrastructure, and calls upon the United Nations system and its entities, within the scope of their respective mandates, in partnership with international financial institutions, regional development banks and other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to support developing countries in developing comprehensive disaster risk reduction financing strategies in support of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and incentivizing investments in resilience, prevention and rehabilitation, and to explore the development of tailored financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms;

40. *Encourages* States to allocate increased domestic resources to disaster risk reduction, including resilient infrastructure, to include disaster risk reduction in budgeting and financial planning across all relevant sectors, and to ensure that national financing frameworks and infrastructure plans are risk-informed, according to national plans and policies;

41. *Recognizes* that economic losses are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, to ensure that infrastructure

plans are aligned to national disaster risk reduction strategies and risk assessments, to support the publication of disaster risk assessments, to make multi-hazard disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure, housing and real estate investments in all sectors, to routinely conduct stress testing of existing infrastructure and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for land-use planning and building codes, as appropriate, towards the achievement of target (d) of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard also encourages countries and other relevant stakeholders to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their social, economic and environmental investments;

42. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the resilience of businesses, as well as the societies within which they operate, by integrating disaster risk into their management practices, to facilitate private investments in disaster risk reduction and to promote risk-informed private investments and the disclosure of disaster risk in business operations and asset values, and also encourages the engagement of credit rating agencies, the insurance sector and the financial services sector in disaster risk reduction, to support countries in the development of innovative instruments, tools and guidelines for de-risking investments and to enhance financing available for disaster risk reduction;

43. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, reduce the risk of displacement in the context of disasters, strengthen the adaptive capacity of food production systems and enhance food security, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, such as forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

44. *Recalls* that the economic and environmental vulnerability index gives consideration to the impacts of disasters, recognizes the relevance of disaster risk and the impact of disasters in the process of graduation from the least developed country category, encourages the integration of disaster risk reduction into the smooth transition strategies of graduating countries in order to promote the sustainability of development progress, including the impact assessment of the likely consequences of graduation and the vulnerability profiles, and also encourages development and trading partners of graduating and recently graduated countries to support those countries in reducing disaster risk and building resilience;

45. *Recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

46. *Also recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global



levels, and that greater efforts are needed to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships for disaster risk reduction, according to national plans and policies;

47. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

48. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities, as well as other people in vulnerable situations, into disaster risk management, and of engaging and appropriately drawing on the capacities of children, youth, including young professionals, as contributors in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

49. *Acknowledges* the continuous work of the entities of the United Nations system, in accordance with their respective mandates, in supporting the efforts of developing countries in the area of disaster risk reduction, including through the inclusion, where appropriate, of disaster risk reduction in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and as part of the common country assessment's multidimensional analysis, requests the relevant United Nations entities and United Nations country teams, and urges other relevant stakeholders, to continue to integrate disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework into their work and to align their work with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, guided by the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and welcomes the establishment of the Centre of Excellence on Climate and Disaster Resilience;

50. *Also acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable, adequate and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages Member States to consider providing or augmenting voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;

51. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

52. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction as forums to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework

and advance coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation, including financing, and recognizes their outcomes as contributions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

53. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali from 23 to 28 May 2022, also expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Jamaica, Kenya, Morocco and Portugal for hosting, in 2021, to the Government of Australia for hosting, in 2022, and to the Government of Uruguay for hosting, in 2023, the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, events jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and encourages participation by all stakeholders, sectors and ministries at the highest level possible;

54. *Recognizes* the importance of the discussions that took place at the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia, and other regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in strengthening the commitment to achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework and as valuable inputs to the midterm review;

55. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, financing, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels and in professional education and training, and of raising awareness and creating a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship to foster all-of-society engagement in disaster risk reduction, and emphasizes the need for new and existing educational infrastructure, school facilities and teaching and learning practices to be risk-informed, resilient and fully accessible to all, which requires channelling financial and other resources towards strengthening these efforts;

56. *Recognizes* the need to promote traditional, local and Indigenous knowledge and wisdom that have been tested and improved through generations across the world, to further strengthen scientific practices and know-how and enhance efforts on awareness-raising and education on disaster risk reduction;

57. *Welcomes* the annual observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October and World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November, as well as World Water Day on 22 March and World Meteorological Day on 23 March, and encourages all States, United Nations bodies and other relevant actors to observe the Days to further raise public awareness of disaster risk reduction;

58. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

59. *Recognizes* that the findings of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review will be an input to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement in 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024, as well as the reviews of and successor frameworks to the Samoa Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action and the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, towards a risk-informed approach to sustainable development and climate action in all sectors and in all countries;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, the effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon and the

implementation of the United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Disaster risk reduction”.

*53rd plenary meeting*

*14 December 2022*

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**Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda item 69 (a)

**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on  
6 December 2022***[without reference to a Main Committee (A/77/L.32)]***77/29. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field  
of natural disasters, from relief to development***The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian affairs segments of the sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

*Reaffirming also* the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

*Recalling* the Sendai Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>2</sup> adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

*Recognizing* that the Sendai Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.



*Noting with concern* that slow-onset disasters such as droughts are on the rise in many places and can have significant impacts on affected populations and lead to increased vulnerability to other hazards,

*Recognizing* the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, and recognizing also the contribution of the relevant regional and subregional platforms,

*Reaffirming* the Paris Agreement<sup>3</sup> and its early entry into force, and encouraging all the parties to the Agreement to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>4</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>5</sup> and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

*Noting with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Sharm el-Sheikh, from 6 to 20 November 2022,

*Welcoming* the holding of the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, and taking note of the multi-partner initiatives and commitments presented during the Summit,

*Noting with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Indonesia of the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Bali from 23 to 28 May 2022,

*Taking note* of its resolution [71/1](#) of 19 September 2016, in which the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the annexes thereto,

*Welcoming* the convening of the intergovernmental conference held on 10 and 11 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, and recalling that it adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, also known as the Marrakech Compact on Migration,<sup>6</sup>

*Expressing gravest concerns* about the humanitarian impacts of and risks posed by the short- and long-term effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of people, including those in vulnerable situations and communities affected by natural disasters, and acknowledging the related challenges for disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts,

*Emphasizing* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State

<sup>3</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [73/195](#), annex.

and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles, and emphasizing also in this regard the need for Member States to coordinate with all relevant actors early on in a disaster response so as to ensure the predictable, coherent and needs-based deployment of military assets and personnel supporting humanitarian assistance,

*Emphasizing also* that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

*Emphasizing further* the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and disaster risk management, including through the voluntary implementation of and follow-up to the Sendai Framework, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of disasters and build resilience, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

*Recalling* the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

*Recognizing* the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that become humanitarian crises, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,<sup>7</sup> highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global challenges, including the impact of climate change, the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis and volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, and other key factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of populations and exposure to natural hazards and the impact of natural disasters,

*Expressing its deep concern also* that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

*Noting with concern* that women, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth are often disproportionately affected in natural disasters, and stressing the need to ensure that their specific needs are identified and addressed in emergency preparedness and response,

*Acknowledging* the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, early action, rapid response and early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation,

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<sup>7</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations, and that action by humanitarian and development actors in urban areas needs to recognize the complexity of cities and build urban resilience, with improved urban expertise and capacities within organizations, while building on the capabilities, opportunities and potential new partnerships present in cities and other human settlements,

*Reaffirming* the adoption of the outcome document entitled “New Urban Agenda” at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>8</sup> and in this regard noting the commitments therein undertaken by Member States regarding affected populations in urban areas, and noting also the importance of implementing policies to ensure more effective disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and disaster risk management,

*Recognizing* that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and capacity-building for community resilience, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the need to support the efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

*Stressing* the need for all relevant actors involved in international responses to natural disasters to ensure that such responses are tailored to context, make use of appropriate tools and support local systems, including by building on local expertise and capacities,

*Recognizing* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility,

*Recognizing also* the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect displaced persons,

*Reaffirming* the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

*Recognizing* the importance of sharing and making use of effective practices as part of transboundary cooperation in preparation for cross-border disaster situations, such as simulation exercises or preparedness or evacuation drills,

*Recognizing also* that scientific advancements can contribute to the effective forecasting of extreme weather events, which allows for a more accurate prediction and early warning of such events, leading to early action,

*Taking note* of the launch of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative and the Year of Action launched by the Global Commission on Adaptation that culminated in the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit,

*Recognizing* the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission,

*Noting* the progress made by and the role of the Global Framework for Climate Services in developing and providing science-based climate information and

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to continued progress in this regard, including to address identified gaps in coordinating and enabling partnerships,

*Welcoming* the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

*Recognizing* the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

*Recognizing also* the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars,

*Emphasizing* the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

*Reaffirming* that strengthening resilience contributes to withstanding, adapting to and quickly recovering from disasters,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of considering increasing investment in building the resilience of communities, which can be the first line of response,

*Recognizing* the changing scope, scale and complexity of humanitarian crises, including natural disasters, and their adverse impact on efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and noting the positive contribution that these efforts can make in strengthening the resilience and preparedness of populations to such disasters and reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters,

*Recognizing also* the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short-term and medium-term recovery, leading to long-term development, and that certain emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

*Emphasizing*, in this context, the important role of development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders in supporting national efforts to prepare for and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>9</sup>
2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, food insecurity, water and sanitation-related challenges, shelter and infrastructure losses, and, in some instances, displacement, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to

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<sup>9</sup> A/77/361.



mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to identify and systematically apply lessons learned and best practices for major sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, including continued improvements in the areas of coordination, preparedness, risk reduction, early warning, early action, rapid response, recovery, resilience and funding to ensure improved humanitarian system-wide response and outcomes for people in need, enabled by coordinated, predictable, timely, flexible and adequate funding;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance and development assistance programmes, as appropriate, to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to increase its support for Member States in their prioritized implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, in line with the Sendai Framework, to ensure that the implementation of the Sendai Framework most effectively contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular through building resilience against disasters, reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters and supporting national and local preparedness and response capacities;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to continue to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including the strengthening of preparedness and mitigation, as well as for responding to disasters;

7. *Encourages* Member States, in line with the call in the Sendai Framework, to promote disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, response and recovery with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and to promoting international cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to provide dedicated financial contributions to disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, as well as early action, rapid response and recovery efforts, in a harmonized, flexible and complementary approach that fully utilizes and helps to coordinate humanitarian and development funding options and potential;

9. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

10. *Acknowledges* that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of climate and extreme weather events, both of which amplify disaster risk and contribute to displacement risk in the context of disasters, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, to strengthen disaster risk reduction and to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems, in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries, and notes in this regard the Early Warnings for All initiative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is covered by early warning systems by 2027;

11. *Urges* the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacity and resilience of Member States, including through capacity-building for community resilience, the application of new science and technology and investments in the context of disasters and climate change;

12. *Encourages* Member States to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from natural disaster-induced displacement, including through national policies and resilience-building, and in this regard encourages Member States, supported by the United Nations, to develop national laws and policies on internal displacement, as appropriate, which address such displacement, detail responsibilities and measures to minimize the impact of disasters, protect and assist internally displaced persons following disasters and identify, promote and support safe, dignified and durable solutions, and in this respect encourages Member States to adopt standards, as appropriate, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,<sup>10</sup> the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee<sup>11</sup> and the basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement;<sup>12</sup>

13. *Also encourages* Member States to develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of displacement in the context of natural disasters, including sudden-onset and slow-onset, and takes note of relevant initiatives in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to integrate the building of resilience and human mobility into relevant strategies, plans and legal frameworks, in particular regarding disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, as integral elements of sustainable development at the national and regional levels so as to help to prevent and mitigate displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, including in urban settings where displaced persons have particular needs, requirements and vulnerabilities, and to enhance cooperation and coordination, where appropriate, to comprehensively and coherently respond to such displacement, including by preventing, preparing for and addressing it;

15. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of natural disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the

<sup>10</sup> E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

<sup>11</sup> A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.

<sup>12</sup> A/HRC/4/18, annex I.

needs of persons displaced in the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices on prevention of and preparation for such displacements, and on the collection of data on such displacement and on durable solutions;

16. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance understanding, analysis, monitoring and assessment of the drivers, scale, dynamics, effects, patterns and duration of displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and to strengthen evidence-based policy and operational responses at all levels in this regard, including to address the root causes of such displacement and strengthen the resilience of displaced persons and their host communities;

17. *Encourages* increased investment in and enhanced sharing of quality forecasting data, risk analytics and modelling of future displacement risks and patterns which may result from natural disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change;

18. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen international and regional collaboration to provide assistance and support and achieve durable solutions in response to displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and enhance the collection, sharing and interoperability of related disaggregated data at all levels to strengthen responses and the achievement of durable solutions to displacement, and in this regard recognizes the importance of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement;

19. *Encourages* Member States to integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighbouring and other relevant countries to prepare for early warning, contingency planning, stockpiling, coordination mechanisms, evacuation planning, reception and assistance arrangements, and public information;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

21. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief and initial recovery, to adopt and implement national laws and regulations, as appropriate, to reduce the impact of the underlying drivers of disaster risk and vulnerability, and to adopt comprehensive rules and procedures for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance, drawing, as appropriate, from the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, and calls upon the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant United Nations organizations and other partners for technical support in achieving these aims;

22. *Welcomes* the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, municipalities, civil society and the private sector, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to

continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

23. *Reiterates* the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to assess and reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly, effectively and safely to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

24. *Also reiterates* the need to build the capacities of governments to manage and respond to disaster and climate risks, including by providing support for and strengthening national and, as appropriate, local preparedness and response capacities, and to build resilience, taking into account the differing needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages, including persons with disabilities;

25. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the sustainable management of ecosystems, in order to reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters;

26. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Sendai Framework, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, implemented effectively in a timely manner, including through scaled-up, predictable and multi-year support, such as forecast-based financing and other anticipatory risk financing instruments, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

27. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support early warning and early action efforts, including through forecast-based financing at the global, regional and national levels, including for multi-hazard early warning systems, climate services, exposure and vulnerability mapping, new technologies and communication protocols, so that persons in vulnerable situations who are exposed to natural hazards, including in geographically remote locations, receive timely, reliable, accurate and actionable early warning information, and encourages the international community to further support national efforts in this regard;

28. *Encourages* the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the efforts of Member States to address the underlying vulnerability and root causes of disaster risk and to work towards ensuring financing support that is coherent, layered and sequenced;

29. *Encourages* Member States to develop or enhance forecast-based preparedness and early action and rapid response systems, including through the establishment and networking of risk management centres, as well as the coordination of existing networks, ensure that comprehensive procedures are in place and make resources available for actions in anticipation of natural disasters, and invites relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other stakeholders to engage in these efforts;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to support Member States, their national and local authorities, as well as local communities to reinforce early warning and early action systems in their disaster and climate risk management frameworks;

31. *Encourages* Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction their national platforms for disaster risk reduction in accordance with the Sendai Framework, and encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

32. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to provide, in a coordinated manner, support for national and regional efforts by providing, in the context of natural disasters, the assistance necessary to increase sustainable food production and access to healthy and nutritious food and its utilization, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

33. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations, international financial institutions and humanitarian and development organizations, as appropriate, to increase efforts to prevent famine and prevent and address food insecurity and malnutrition and their underlying causes related to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, among other principal drivers, including by providing urgent funding and multisectoral assistance to respond to the needs of affected populations, such as those in hard-to-reach areas, and by developing and strengthening resilient and sustainable food systems, shock-responsive social protection systems and the use of cash and voucher assistance and disaster risk insurance to strengthen livelihoods, food production, and recovery, and by improving the availability and use of data on food security and nutrition risks and impacts;

34. *Recognizes* the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

35. *Stresses* that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

36. *Also stresses* the importance of investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure and structural and non-structural disaster risk reduction measures, including nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, among other approaches, for preventing and mitigating the humanitarian impacts of natural disasters and helping to reduce the cost of disaster response, recovery and reconstruction, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

37. *Acknowledges* that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “build back better”;

38. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to continue to support the localization of disaster preparedness and response and work to ensure that national and local actors are enabled to respond to community-level needs and priorities, and strengthen collaboration and partnerships between international, national, local and regional actors with a view to reinforcing national and local capacities, leadership and coordination mechanisms;

39. *Calls upon* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to strengthen the engagement of affected people and local communities in disaster preparedness and response, including in the planning and implementation stages as

well as in building resilience, including in coordination with national Governments and in accordance with their mandates;

40. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to continue to implement community engagement approaches through which communities receive timely information and which can improve the targeting of humanitarian assistance;

41. *Encourages* Member States and regional organizations to work together to strengthen regional cooperation to improve national and regional capacity to understand and reduce risks and prepare for and respond to disasters in support of national efforts, including by exchanging experiences and best practices;

42. *Encourages* Member States to move from reactive to more anticipatory risk-based, multi-hazard and inclusive approaches, such as the promotion of ex ante investments to prevent disaster risks and build resilience, the promotion of environmental and spatial measures and the integration of lessons from past disasters, as well as awareness of new risks, into future planning;

43. *Encourages* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by natural disasters to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

44. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

45. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to take appropriate measures to reduce and discourage the sending of unsolicited, unneeded or inappropriate relief goods in response to disasters;

46. *Encourages* all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance and the entry of humanitarian personnel and supplies, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

47. *Encourages* Member States to put in place, as appropriate, customs measures to improve effectiveness in responding to natural disasters;

48. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

49. *Recognizes* the importance of global and regional operational readiness and response services, networks and surge mechanisms in strengthening the effectiveness of disaster prevention, preparedness and response, and encourages further efforts in this regard by, inter alia, strengthening partnerships with national disaster management agencies and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and building, reinforcing and complementing their capacities, in close coordination with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, including through improved data sharing and interoperability;

50. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in supporting Member States, upon their request, and the United Nations system in preparedness and humanitarian response, and encourages the continued incorporation

into this mechanism of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters;

51. *Also welcomes* the important contribution of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance, and encourages Member States to continue to support the Advisory Group, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002;

52. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters in both rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

53. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders to continue to take concrete action for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in order to strengthen resilience to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and ensure that sustainable development in urban settings is informed by disaster risk, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations;

54. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, and encourages all States, United Nations entities and other relevant actors to promote ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management;

55. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations, traditional and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in situations of natural disasters, in order to cooperate effectively in providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

56. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to increase efforts to engage the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, through strategic partnerships in disaster risk reduction activities and disaster response and recovery, as appropriate;

57. *Recognizes* that information and telecommunications technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunications capacities that are accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations<sup>13</sup> to consider doing so;

58. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and

<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

59. *Encourages* Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan, and reiterates the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries;

60. *Recognizes* the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities, as appropriate, in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk reduction efforts to strengthen the evidence-based shared understanding of disaster risk and impacts and to work to improve efficiencies in this regard;

61. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its provision of data-related services and policy advice and build the data skills of its humanitarian staff, in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response;

62. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post-disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of disaster risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

63. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance, and taking into account the environmental impact;

64. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for effective humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

65. *Encourages* Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, including forecast-based action and financing and disaster risk financing, and to improve the effectiveness and accountability of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate,



and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

66. *Also encourages* Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies;

67. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers, and the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programmes to anticipate and address them, including through the use of science, technology and innovation, and in this regard encourages all the relevant stakeholders to support Governments in capacity development, including at the regional and local levels, through the sharing of expertise and tools and the provision of necessary resources, as appropriate, to ensure that effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place in accordance with national priorities for disaster risk management;

68. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, early action, rapid response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities, including the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the Gender with Age Marker;

69. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership, gender equality and empowerment of women and their full and effective participation in the planning and implementation of natural disaster response strategies and humanitarian response to effectively address their specific needs, including through strengthening partnerships with, and building the capacities of, national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate, to adopt gender-responsive programming on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to and recover from adverse impacts of climate change;

70. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, including with regard to sexual and reproductive health needs and means to address sexual and gender-based violence and various forms of exploitation during emergencies and in post-disaster environments, and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

71. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in the context of natural disasters, to ensure access to safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, including women and girls;

72. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the importance of non-discrimination and their inclusive and active participation in and contribution to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of systematic approaches,

policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, recognizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, and recalls the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

73. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and access to quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

74. *Also encourages* efforts to strengthen the disaster resilience and safety of schools, reduce interruptions to education during natural disasters, including interruptions to school meals, and in this regard encourages international support to countries that are vulnerable to natural hazards, as appropriate;

75. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to incorporate mental health and psychosocial support services into disaster preparedness, response and recovery;

76. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices, including in the context of COVID-19, for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

77. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

78. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to support national, subnational and local governments and communities in their responsibility to develop long-term strategies, forecast-based financing and preparedness systems and multi-year operational plans for preparedness that are embedded within disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Sendai Framework;

79. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, early action, rapid response and early recovery;

80. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

81. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery is an important step towards resilience-building and should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established and complementary humanitarian and development instruments;

82. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses; and encourages scaling up of early warning and early

action systems, forecasting, prevention-oriented responses and emergency preparedness, strengthening of their coordination, coherence, complementarity and impact, and an increase in the use of disaster risk analysis, climate science, predictive analytics, reinforcing systematic risk monitoring and the sharing of data and analysis across sectors and at all levels to better prevent and address disaster and climate risks and impacts;

83. *Reaffirms* its decision to hold a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023;

84. *Encourages* international financial institutions to accelerate anticipatory financing at scale for preparedness and response as well as for risk-informed resilient recovery, including pre-agreed contingency financing, in ways that complement and reinforce humanitarian pooled funds;

85. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning and early action, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions, countries and communities likely to be affected, and notes the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the blueprint for action prepared by them, and the standard operating procedures for El Niño/Southern Oscillation events of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

86. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to enhance the use of common risk analysis, including the use of the Index for Risk Management, to establish the evidence base for short-, medium- and long-term planning and joint strategies for disaster and climate risk management, capacity development and resilience-building, allowing for greater prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

87. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to work towards a common understanding of underlying risks, clarify roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and establish joint objectives and programmes informed by affected people, data and analysis to strengthen coordination, collaboration and coherence among short-, medium- and long-term activities to progressively reduce needs and vulnerability, build resilience and manage the risk related to climate change and of disasters and development setbacks over multi-year planning cycles, including through integrating risk management into national sustainable development plans and ensuring the connectivity of humanitarian plans with the longer-term sustainable development priorities of Member States, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

88. *Stresses* the need to strengthen resilience at all levels, and in this regard encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to support efforts, as appropriate, to integrate resilience into humanitarian and development programming, and encourages humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common resilience and risk management objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

89. *Encourages* Member States, international financial institutions and the private sector to support further development and, where appropriate, the strengthening of anticipatory financing approaches, to mobilize predictable and multi-year support and to work collectively towards common results in order to reduce need, risk and vulnerability, making use of a wide range of financing flows

and instruments and partnerships to mobilize additional resources in the field of natural disasters;

90. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, in collaboration with development organizations, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective mandates, including by prioritizing humanitarian tools and approaches that strengthen resilience, including preparedness, and support livelihoods, and to support further development and, where appropriate, the strengthening of anticipatory financing approaches, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, vouchers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

91. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

92. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to identify ways to improve the current financing architecture in order to better provide coherent, predictable and flexible longer-term funding for risk management in multi-year strategies and forecasting, in particular preparedness, on the basis of a global assessment of risk, allowing for better prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

93. *Recognizes* that enhanced access to international climate finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and also recognizes the ongoing efforts in this regard;

94. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to scale up finance for adaptation and disaster risk reduction to countries and local communities that are affected by compound risks caused by humanitarian emergencies and vulnerability to natural hazards and the adverse effects of climate change to prevent, mitigate, adapt and respond to disaster impacts, to reduce humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities related to disasters and to build resilience to shocks;

95. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for preparedness and disaster risk reduction, early action, rapid response and early recovery activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

96. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

97. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary

contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars, and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

98. *Also calls upon* Member States to continue to increase support to the Central Emergency Response Fund and humanitarian country-based and regional pooled funds for strengthening early and rapid response to mitigate the impact of disasters, including in underfunded contexts and increasingly through local and national responders and implementing partners;

99. *Invites* Member States, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to harness their differentiated skills, capacities and resources, and also to consider voluntary contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms;

100. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, and the building of resilience to disasters as integral elements of sustainable development and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>14</sup> and promoting a complementary and coherent approach between those Agendas and the Sendai Framework;

101. *Strongly encourages* all relevant actors to work to ensure a comprehensive, coherent, systematic and people-centred approach to managing risks, including through, as appropriate, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda;

102. *Takes note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit;<sup>15</sup>

103. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

*45th plenary meeting  
6 December 2022*

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<sup>14</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>15</sup> [A/71/353](#).