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Agenda item 19

Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee**

Rapporteur: Mr. Diamane **Diome** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled:

“Sustainable development:

- “(a) Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21;
- “(b) 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;
- “(c) Disaster risk reduction;
- “(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind;
- “(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
- “(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;
- “(g) Harmony with Nature;
- “(h) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- “(i) Combating sand and dust storms”

* Reissued for technical reasons on 15 December 2020.

** The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbols [A/75/457](#), [A/75/457/Add.1](#), [A/75/457/Add.2](#), [A/75/457/Add.3](#), [A/75/457/Add.4](#), [A/75/457/Add.5](#), [A/75/457/Add.6](#), [A/75/457/Add.7](#), [A/75/457/Add.8](#) and [A/75/457/Add.9](#).



and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 5 October 2020, the Committee, taking into account the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the limitations on meetings held on United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as available technological and procedural solutions, and bearing in mind the conference room paper of the Bureau of the Second Committee on the work of the Committee during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly,¹ approved the working arrangements of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session as set out in the organization of work of the Committee.²

3. The Committee convened virtual informal meetings on 12 and 13 October 2020 to hear introductory statements and hold general discussions on the item and sub-items. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings, as well as written statements submitted under the item, are reflected in the annex to the present document. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 5, 6, 8 and 9 October 2020.³ Action on the item and sub-items was taken at the 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 18, 24 and 25 November.⁴ An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is given in the annex and the addenda to the present report.

4. For its consideration of the item and sub-items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 19

Sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan ([A/75/237](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship for sustainable development ([A/75/257](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores ([A/75/308](#))

Item 19 (a)

Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21" ([A/75/269](#))

Item 19 (b)

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

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for

¹ Available at www.un.org/en/ga/second/75/bureau-paper.pdf.

² See [A/C.2/75/L.1](#).

³ See [A/C.2/75/SR.1](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.2](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.3](#) and [A/C.2/75/SR.4](#).

⁴ See [A/C.2/75/SR.5](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.6](#) and [A/C.2/75/SR.7](#).

the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ([A/75/273](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations ([A/75/277](#))

Item 19 (c)

Disaster risk reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 ([A/75/226](#))

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of the integration of disaster risk reduction in the work of the United Nations system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” ([A/75/76](#)) and his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon ([A/75/76/Add.1](#))

Item 19 (d)

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/75/256](#))

Item 19 (e)

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) ([A/75/190](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/75/256](#))

Item 19 (f)

Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions ([A/75/256](#))

Item 19 (g)

Harmony with Nature

Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature ([A/75/266](#))

Item 19 (h)**Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

Report of the Secretary-General on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ([A/75/265](#))

Item 19 (i)**Combating sand and dust storms**

Report of the Secretary-General on combating sand and dust storms ([A/75/278](#))

II. Consideration of proposals**A. Draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.6](#)**

5. At its 5th meeting, on 18 November 2020, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Oil slick on Lebanese shores” ([A/C.2/75/L.6](#)), submitted by Guyana on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.⁵

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.6](#) by a recorded vote of 162 to 8, with 6 abstentions (see para. 20, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania,

⁵ See <https://delegate.un.int/dgacm/delegate.nsf/xpPlaceC2.xsp>.

Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Tonga.

8. Also at the 5th meeting, before the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Israel.⁶

9. At the same meeting, after the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Lebanon.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.27/Rev.1](#)

10. At its 5th meeting, on 18 November 2020, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan” ([A/C.2/75/L.27/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Kazakhstan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that, since the submission of the revised draft resolution, the following had joined as co-sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United States of America and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Benin, Cameroon, Guinea, Italy, Latvia, Nauru, Palau and, Sao Tome and Principe also joined as co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution.^{7,8}

13. Also at the 5th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.27/Rev.1](#) (see para. 20, draft resolution II).

⁶ See [A/C.2/75/SR.5](#).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ The delegations of Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary subsequently informed the Secretariat that they had intended to co-sponsor the revised draft resolution.

C. Draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.28/Rev.1](#)

14. At its 5th meeting, on 18 November 2020, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Entrepreneurship for sustainable development” ([A/C.2/75/L.28/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the representative of Israel on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Slovakia, Togo, Tuvalu and Zambia.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that, since the submission of the revised draft resolution, the following had joined as co-sponsors: Andorra, Austria, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Burundi, Guinea, Guyana, Liberia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the United Republic of Tanzania also joined as co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution.⁹

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.28/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 144 to 26, with 9 abstentions (see para. 20, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova,

⁹ See [A/C.2/75/SR.5](#).

Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

Abstaining:

Angola, Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey.

18. Also at the 5th meeting, before the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Mauritania (on behalf of the Arab Group). After the vote, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the United States of America.¹⁰

19. At the same meeting, after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Israel, the European Union (on behalf of its member States and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

¹⁰ Ibid.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

20. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Oil slick on Lebanese shores**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [61/124](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/188](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/211](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/195](#) of 21 December 2009, [65/147](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/192](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/201](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/206](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/212](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/194](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/218](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/209](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/224](#) of 20 December 2018 and [74/208](#) of 19 December 2019 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,¹ in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,³

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyah electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions [61/194](#), [62/188](#), [63/211](#), [64/195](#), [65/147](#), [66/192](#), [67/201](#), [68/206](#), [69/212](#), [70/194](#), [71/218](#), [72/209](#), [73/224](#) and [74/208](#),

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution [74/208](#), it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the General Assembly has yet to be implemented,

¹ 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.

² *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.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Acknowledging also the conclusions on measuring and quantifying the environmental damage set out in the report of the Secretary-General,⁴

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration trust fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the trust fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reiterates*, for the fifteenth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyah electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;
3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health in the country;
4. *Acknowledges* the conclusions in the report of the Secretary-General, in which he stated that studies show that the value of the damage to Lebanon amounted to 856.4 million United States dollars in 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations involved in the initial assessment of the relevant environmental damage to undertake, within existing resources, a further study, building on, inter alia, the initial work of the World Bank presented in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session,⁵ with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by neighbouring countries;
5. *Reiterates its request* in this regard to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon for the aforementioned damage and to other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;
6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and

⁴ A/75/308.

⁵ A/62/343.

international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration trust fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly and adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyah electric power plant;

8. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to intensify their support for Lebanon in this matter, particularly for recovery and rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast, reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the trust fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution II

International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [52/169](#) M of 16 December 1997, [53/1](#) H of 16 November 1998, [55/44](#) of 27 November 2000, [57/101](#) of 25 November 2002, [60/216](#) of 22 December 2005, [63/279](#) of 24 April 2009, [66/193](#) of 22 December 2011, [69/209](#) of 19 December 2014 and [72/213](#) of 20 December 2017,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Taking into consideration the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Acknowledging the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period from 2017 to 2019, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing also the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking note of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Considering the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for strengthening coordination and information-sharing, as appropriate, among various actors in the region to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional socioeconomic programmes and services, with special attention to vulnerable groups in the region,

Emphasizing the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

Noting with great concern the threat to 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 sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda¹ and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General² for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 72/213 and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;
2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, implementing measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and surrounding areas, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;
3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population, as well as in efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing the effectiveness of existing programmes and providing the technical, expert and financial contributions necessary for the implementation of national development programmes for the rehabilitation and development of the Semipalatinsk region;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region, and to promote international awareness of the situation;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek

¹ Resolution 70/1.

² A/75/237.

appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III Entrepreneurship for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [67/202](#) of 21 December 2012, [69/210](#) of 19 December 2014, [71/221](#) of 21 December 2016 and [73/225](#) of 20 December 2018,

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 [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

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 Sustainable Development 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,

Reaffirming 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,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement¹ 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 Change² 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 2015–2030,³ and reaffirming that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other things, seeks to develop and implement holistic disaster risk reduction management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework,

Recalling also relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,⁴ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,⁵ the Vienna Declaration and Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

⁴ *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.

⁵ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,⁶ taking note of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and recognizing 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, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁷ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁸ and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Acknowledging that entrepreneurship and innovation are essential for harnessing the economic potential of each nation and the importance of supporting mass entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, which create new momentum for economic growth and job creation and expand opportunities for all, including women and youth,

Recalling relevant agreed conclusions and resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the agreed conclusions adopted at its sixty-first session, entitled “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”,⁹ and the agreed conclusions adopted at its sixty-second session, entitled “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”,¹⁰ stressing that women and girls, particularly in developing countries, are important drivers of entrepreneurship and sustainable development, calling for measures to enable women to leverage science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, and recognizing the importance of policies and programmes that eliminate discrimination against women and provide public infrastructure to ensure equal access for women and men entrepreneurs,

Recognizing that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important in order to mobilize and access knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, as well as support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, including developing countries,

Underlining the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for achieving sustainable development and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and reaffirming that good governance, the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems and measures to combat corruption and curb illicit financial flows will be integral to those efforts,

Emphasizing the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, and emphasizing that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires the talents, creativity and entrepreneurial vigour of the entire population,

Welcoming the United Nations Youth Strategy, launched by the Secretary-General,

⁶ Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

⁷ *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.

⁸ *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.

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7 (E/2017/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 2018, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2018/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

Noting with great concern the threat to 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 sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Recognizing the important contribution that entrepreneurship makes to sustainable development by creating jobs, driving inclusive economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and addressing economic, social and environmental challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizing that the role of entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in social and economic development is more critical than ever in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond,

Recognizing also that entrepreneurship drives economic growth by creating jobs, promoting decent work and sustainable agriculture and fostering innovation,

Recognizing further that entrepreneurship can help to address environmental challenges through the introduction of new climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies and resilience measures, as well as by promoting environmentally sustainable practices and consumption patterns,

Recognizing the positive contribution that entrepreneurship can make in promoting social cohesion, reducing inequalities and expanding opportunities for all, including women, young people, persons with disabilities and the most vulnerable people, and reaching the furthest behind first,

Noting the role that entrepreneurship can play in supporting participation in the labour market for persons with disabilities, and that promoting the feasibility of entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities will increase awareness of entrepreneurship as a potential labour market activity, not only for persons with disabilities, but also for self-employment and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and noting also that persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, face disproportionate and intersecting forms of discrimination, including in access to financial resources,

Recalling its resolution [71/279](#) of 6 April 2017 on Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day,

Recognizing the importance of encouraging the formalization, participation and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in international, regional and national markets, including through access for all to capacity-building and financial services, such as affordable microfinance and credit,

Remaining deeply concerned by continued high rates of youth unemployment, particularly in developing countries, which stifle the transformative potential of young people in sustainable development,

Reaffirming its commitment to substantially increase the number of young people and all adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, and acknowledging the importance of strengthening education systems, including vocational training, in order to develop relevant skills and competences,

Acknowledging that social entrepreneurship plays an important role in achieving the sustainable development challenges by applying innovative market-based solutions to social and environmental problems, while being financially sustainable, and providing job and income opportunities for disadvantaged groups,

Acknowledging also the importance of promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities, job creation and entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services and the improvement of financial literacy, and in this regard recognizing the role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization that could contribute to job creation for all,

Recognizing that businesses will play a central role in the transition towards sustainable development and a more resource-efficient economy, including concepts such as the circular economy, by adapting their business models and value chains,

Noting with concern that societal attitudes and negative preconceptions, in particular towards women, including the fear of failure, the lack of opportunity and insufficient support structures, can undermine efforts to create a culture of entrepreneurship,

Recognizing the importance of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for monitoring progress in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies and their direct and indirect contribution to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and addressing sex-disaggregated data gaps, to ensure that no one is left behind,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;¹¹
2. *Reiterates* the need to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, in that regard emphasizes the importance of improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, and foster micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and stresses the positive role that entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation, reducing inequalities and expanding opportunities for all, including for women and youth;
3. *Also reiterates* that the persistently low wages earned by women workers impact their economic empowerment, giving rise to the need to build their economic resilience by helping them access and mobilize adequate financial resources and technologies and to undertake capacity-building to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, and, in addition, to empower women through entrepreneurship by increasing their employment and market opportunities through targeted education and training and greater legal protections in the workplace;
4. *Encourages* Governments to take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers, and to develop policies, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, that address the legal, social and regulatory barriers to equal, effective economic participation, and stresses the need for a comprehensive and holistic approach to entrepreneurship that includes long-term and cross-sectoral strategies;

¹¹ [A/75/257](#).

5. *Acknowledges* that promoting entrepreneurship can stimulate new production processes and technology development, including the building of endogenous capacities for enabling climate change mitigation and adaptation and enhancing energy efficiency, and recognizes that such a policy, which could draw on the initiatives presented in the Global Climate Action Agenda, can help Governments to meet their targets for the Paris Agreement on climate change;

6. *Also acknowledges* that the private sector contributes to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and that partnerships with the private sector play an important role in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while protecting workers' rights;

7. *Further acknowledges* the need for Member States to develop policies and, where appropriate, strengthen national and international policy regulatory frameworks and their coherence, harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation, closing technology gaps and scaling up capacity-building at all levels to better align private sector incentives with public goals, including incentivizing the private sector to adopt sustainable practices, and foster long-term quality investment, taking into account the importance of responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility, as reflected in the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact and in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,¹² environmental, social and governance performance standards and greater transparency in supply chains to end forced and child labour;

8. *Recognizes* the vital role of entrepreneurship in the development of regional economic integration, which can be an important catalyst for implementing economic reforms, reducing trade barriers and decreasing trade costs;

9. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, particularly women and women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, green and inclusive businesses, and digital entrepreneurs, in urban and especially in rural areas, including through the use of innovative tools, including mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments, and encourages them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks that facilitate the safe and sound provision of financial services, increase access to information to protect consumers and promote financial literacy, particularly for women, young people and the most vulnerable people;

10. *Also invites* Member States to support the digital entrepreneurship of women, including in e-commerce, including for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, to develop local solutions and relevant content and promote innovation and decent job creation;

11. *Encourages* Member States to expand alternative sources of financing, including blended finance as well as impact investing, cooperatives and venture philanthropy, venture capital and angel investors for start-ups, and diversify the retail financial service system to include non-traditional providers of financial services, such as microcredit and microfinance, stresses the value of a sound regulatory framework in this regard, and encourages the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering sound financial services to the poor, with a particular emphasis on women;

¹² A/HRC/17/31, annex.

12. *Emphasizes* the important role of national efforts aimed at bringing all workers from the informal to the formal economy and integrating them into national social security systems, as appropriate, including by simplifying administrative processes, such as enabling business registration through single-window and e-registration procedures, notes that recommendation No. 204 of the International Labour Organization can provide useful guidance on the transition from the informal to the formal economy, and recognizes that women face unique barriers to entering the formal workforce;

13. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of women to transition from the informal economy to formal employment and outline measures to reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and promote decent paid care and domestic work for women and men in the public and private sectors by providing social protection, safe working conditions and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, thereby facilitating the transition of informal workers, including those engaged in informal paid care and domestic work, into the formal economy;

14. *Recognizes* that technological improvement, particularly through the diffusion of technology, can provide new opportunities for businesses to improve their competitiveness and increase their productive capacities, and in this regard encourages Member States to increase cooperation in support of technology exchange and transfer on mutually agreed terms, innovation, capacity-building programmes and the sharing of best practices for promoting entrepreneurship;

15. *Highlights* the importance of supporting technologies that can have a high social return, correspond to local needs and contribute to technological upgrading and social development;

16. *Recognizes* that entrepreneurs can address sustainable development challenges by developing effective and simple solutions in the areas of utility services, education, health care, hunger eradication and the environment, and that social entrepreneurship, including cooperatives and social enterprises, can help to alleviate poverty and catalyse social transformation by strengthening the productive capacities of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, and producing goods and services that are accessible to them;

17. *Acknowledges* the value of entrepreneurship education and the dissemination of entrepreneurial thinking across all sectors, encourages all relevant actors to increase efforts to systemically integrate entrepreneurship within the formal and informal education systems, including through, inter alia, skills development, career guidance to support entrepreneurship, behavioural approach programmes such as the Empretec programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Start and Improve Your Business programme of the International Labour Organization, capacity-building, professional training programmes, business incubators and national centres of excellence, as well as online platforms and e mentorships, and encourages cooperation and networking and the sharing of best practices while fostering innovation and using innovative teaching methods in line with the demands of the competitive markets and ensuring the full participation of women and girls;

18. *Encourages* all stakeholders, in particular women and young entrepreneurs, to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges, and emphasizes that local innovation and entrepreneurship systems need to be able to fully participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development,¹³ including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that concerted efforts are needed to ensure the participation of all;

19. *Reiterates* the need for the promotion and advancement of women in labour markets, including through policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of structural barriers and stereotypes that women of all ages face in the transition from school to work, and the need to address challenges faced by women returning from care-related career breaks and by older women, by providing access to technical and vocational skills training, as well as access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics training, entrepreneurship development and job-matching, and addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers that they face, including violence, and the unequal distribution of unpaid care and work, and promoting their participation in relevant decision-making processes;

20. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to further develop financial literacy and financial education programmes that include an emphasis on the impact of finance on sustainable development, as appropriate, in order to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to access financial services, in particular women and girls, farmers and those working in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;

21. *Encourages and facilitates* women's entrepreneurship, including by improving access to financing and investment opportunities, tools of trade, business development and training, in order to increase trade and procurement, including public procurement from women's enterprises, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and self-help groups in both the public and private sectors;

22. *Strengthens* science and technology education policies and curricula to promote girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics so that they are relevant to the needs of and benefit women and girls, and encourages investment and research in sustainable technology that meets the needs of women, particularly in developing countries, in order to strengthen their capacities, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

23. *Highlights* the importance of developing and implementing policies and programmes to support women's entrepreneurship, in particular opportunities for new women entrepreneurs and those that lead to business expansion for existing women-owned micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and encourages Governments to increase investments in women-owned companies and businesses, to reduce administrative barriers in the regulatory environment, removing restrictions that deter women from engaging in business activities, and to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by providing them with training and advisory services in business, access to finance, administration and information and communications technology, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation on advisory boards and in other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed, in particular by financial institutions;

24. *Recognizes* that social entrepreneurs are agents of change who can create alternative sustainable models of production, finance and consumption to respond to social, economic and environmental issues, while generating value for their community and stakeholders, also recognizes the need to implement policies and

¹³ Resolution 70/1.

programmes aimed at supporting social entrepreneurship, and encourages Governments to set up an environment conducive to social innovation;

25. *Also recognizes* that harnessing entrepreneurial talents among all young people is vital for increasing productive capacities, developing new forms of entrepreneurship focused on information and communications technology, big data, digitization, smart cities and creating start-ups, and generating full and productive employment and decent work and inclusive economic growth, and encourages Member States to integrate youth entrepreneurship strategies and innovative programmes into their national policies, create a nurturing environment for the full realization of the rights and capabilities of all young people, and increase investment in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through impact investment favouring the poorest and most vulnerable, entrepreneurial education, youth capacity-building and information and communications technology;

26. *Encourages* Governments and all sectors of society to take sustainable measures to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis and without discrimination on the basis of gender and disability, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development and vocational and entrepreneurial training, in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, notes that further efforts are needed to increase awareness of the ability of persons with disabilities to innovate and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through entrepreneurship, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to establish research on policy support for entrepreneurs with disabilities and collect data in order to develop or improve programmes, taking into account their capabilities, skills, socioeconomic status and other personal characteristics;

27. *Stresses* the need to highlight the value of entrepreneurship and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, including the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, by promoting policies, initiatives and programmes that support the development of an enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem, including by raising public awareness, reinforcing local support networks and employing specific measures aimed at removing negative preconceptions and negative cultural biases;

28. *Also stresses* the need to enhance the alignment of policies for entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, with the post-COVID-19 recovery priorities and the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizes that these policies should prioritize those in vulnerable situations, who have the greatest needs, including women and young entrepreneurs, and incentivize the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, adaptation to flexible work environments, including remote work, digitalization, innovation to access alternative markets and novel financing mechanisms, and the collection of high-quality, reliable and comparable data, while ensuring an optimal regulatory environment for entrepreneurs to start and scale up their businesses;

29. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to implement the present resolution as a means to deliver the comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in which the dignity of the human person is fundamental, the Goals and targets are met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, no one is left behind and we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

30. *Stresses* the importance of indicators that can be used to formulate targeted entrepreneurship policies and measure their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard encourages Member States, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to further identify and develop indicators at the national and regional levels, as appropriate;

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

32. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate entrepreneurship in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, as appropriate, and invites the United Nations system, and in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue to provide support to and assist Member States, at their request, to identify, formulate, implement and assess coherent policy measures on entrepreneurship and the promotion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises;

33. *Decides* to continue to consider, as appropriate, the contribution of entrepreneurship to sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including COVID-19-related aspects, effects and responses, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Sustainable development”, unless otherwise agreed.

Annex

General discussion

1. In accordance with its agreed organization of work ([A/C.2/75/L.1](#)), the Second Committee held general discussions on agenda item 19 and its sub-items (a) to (i) during three informal virtual meetings, on 12 and 13 October.

2. At the first informal virtual meeting, on 12 October, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-items 19 (a), (b), (g) and (h)), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (under sub-item 19 (c)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (by means of a recorded message) (under sub-item 19 (e)), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (by means of a recorded message) (under sub-item 19 (f)), the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States of the United Nations Development Programme (under item 19), the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (under sub-item 19 (i)), the Chief of the New York Office of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (under item 19), the Inter-agency Affairs Officer of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under sub-item 19 (d)), and the Regional Adviser at the Regional Bureau for Arab States of the United Nations Development Programme (under item 19). Written introductory statements were also submitted by the representatives of the Joint Inspection Unit, as well as by the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination regarding the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (under sub-item 19 (c)).

3. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction responded to comments made and questions posed by the representative of Ecuador.

4. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Kazakhstan (on behalf of the landlocked developing countries, as well as in national capacity), Morocco (on behalf of the African States), the Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Belarus, Sierra Leone, Malawi (on behalf of the least developed countries), Kenya, Honduras, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, China and Mozambique.

5. At the second informal virtual meeting, on 12 October, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of Maldives, Singapore, Eritrea, Algeria, Thailand, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia, Iraq, Brazil, El Salvador, Nigeria, Myanmar, the Republic of Moldova, Egypt, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Written statements were also submitted by Cameroon and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as well as by the Caribbean Community.

6. At the third informal virtual meeting, on 13 October, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of Belize (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Nicaragua, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Libya, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Oman, the Niger, Mexico, Ukraine, Chile and Azerbaijan, as well as by the observer for the Holy See. Written statements were also submitted by Bhutan, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, as well as by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization.

7. Statements delivered under the item, including written statements submitted under the item that were provided to the Secretariat, are available in the Second Committee Place of e-deleGATE and the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations* online.¹

¹ See <https://delegate.un.int/dgacm/delegate.nsf/xpPlaceC2.xsp>; see also <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/863bd3f9-2efe-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-12/statements> and <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/993bd3f9-2efe-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-12/statements>.