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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

France, Iran, Japan, Philippines: draft resolutionThe General Assembly,

Recalling that, in its resolution 2450 (XXIII), it stated that it shared the concern expressed in the Proclamation of Teheran and in resolution XI concerning human rights and scientific and technological developments adopted in that city by the International Conference on Human Rights in 1968,

Noting that, pursuant to resolutions 2450 (XXIII), 2721 (XXV), 3026 (XXVII), 3149 (XXVIII) and 3150 (XXVIII), the United Nations and the specialized agencies have already undertaken research and studies and are considering the formulation of certain standards in that field,

Noting with satisfaction that at both the national and the international level, in public and private institutions and organizations as well as in public opinion, there is a growing awareness not only of the vast prospects opened up by scientific and technological developments for the realization of human rights and economic, social and cultural development but also of the threats to fundamental rights represented by the improper use of certain scientific discoveries and their applications,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in resolutions 2721 (XXV) and 3150 (XXVIII) whereby it is important to ensure a balance between scientific and technological developments, the intellectual, spiritual and moral advancement of humanity and the improvement of the living conditions of individuals, groups and peoples,

Emphasizing that the establishment of a genuine new international economic order entails, inter alia, a fundamental contribution on the part of science and technology and the safeguarding of human rights,

Recognizing that, as stated in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (resolution 2626 (XXV)), concerted efforts should be made by the developing countries, with appropriate assistance from the rest of the world community, to expand their capability to apply science and technology for development in accordance with their national development plans and their priorities, so as to enable the technological gap to be significantly reduced,

Noting that, in accordance with the International Development Strategy (resolution 2626 (XXV)), developed and developing countries and competent international organizations should draw up and implement a programme for promoting the transfer of technology to developing countries,

Aware that when modern technology is introduced into the developing countries it may pose problems comparable to those which affect the developed countries and also poses specific problems of adaptation which the institutions in the United Nations family have begun to analyse,

Convinced that the often unforeseeable implications of scientific and technological developments transcend frontiers and call for both national and international solutions,

Taking note of resolution 2 (XXX) of the Commission on Human Rights,

Having studied the reports of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

1. Recognizes that, while science and technology constitute an element which is indispensable to development, it is essential to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of scientific and technological developments;

2. Draws the attention of States to the advantages which may be derived from the elaboration and adoption, by the competent national authorities, of measures designed to modify national legislation and practices to take account of new technology, with a view to safeguarding the fundamental rights of the individual and of groups or organizations in all sectors of social life, and invites Governments to transmit to the Secretary-General the information available to them in that field;

3. Draws the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the importance of collecting many qualified opinions, particularly with regard to deontology, in the study of such problems and requests it to take the necessary measures for the implementation of this resolution in liaison, in particular, with the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, which are invited to follow these problems as a whole at regular intervals,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to request the specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International

Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, to go into greater detail in the studies which they are pursuing, and to consider the formulation of international standards in the areas within their competence which fall within the purview of this resolution;

5. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a programme of work taking into account the reports of the Secretary-General, the replies of Governments and other relevant sources, with a view to formulating standards in the areas which would appear to be sufficiently analysed, without prejudice to other activities carried out pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions, and to transmit that programme to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session;

6. Invites the competent organs to take into consideration the results of the studies undertaken pursuant to this resolution when drawing up a draft agenda and carrying out the preparatory work in the event that it is decided to convene a further United Nations conference on science and technology.
