



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2022

Seventy-seventh session
Agenda item 18
Sustainable development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 2022

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/77/443, para. 32)]

77/158. International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025

The General Assembly,

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

Noting that glaciers are a critical component of the hydrological cycle and that the current accelerated melting and retreat of glaciers have severe impacts on the climate, the environment, the maintenance of human well-being and health and sustainable development,

Noting with concern the findings contained in the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,



Reaffirming the Paris Agreement¹ and its early entry into force, encouraging all the parties to the Agreement 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, and highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,

Welcoming the holding of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, and the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022,

Taking into account the links between the water and climate agendas, and the opportunity to promote them in the context of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 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, by building on actions on water adaptation and resilience and fostering early warning systems providing accessible, timely, reliable, disaggregated and fit-for-purpose data and monitoring, as well as providing support in relation to capacity-building and training, especially in developing countries,

Recognizing that, in many high mountain areas, glacier retreat and permafrost thaw are projected to further decrease the stability of slopes, and that the incidences of floods owing to glacier lake outburst or rain-on-snow, landslides and snow avalanches are projected to increase and occur in new locations or different seasons,

Noting that, over the past decades, global warming has led to widespread shrinking of the cryosphere, with mass loss from ice sheets and glaciers and reductions in snow cover, which have decreased the stability of high mountain areas and changed the amount and seasonality of run-off and water resources in snow-dominated and glacier-fed river basins, as well as contributed to localized declines in agricultural yields in some high mountain regions, water scarcity, including reduced downstream water availability, and increased global mean sea level,

Noting also that continuous global temperature rise may result in irreversible impacts on certain ecosystems with low resilience, such as polar, mountain and coastal delta ecosystems, impacted by ice sheet, glacier and snow cover melt and by accelerating and higher committed sea level rise,

Recognizing that the need for a worldwide inventory of existing perennial ice and snow masses was first considered during the International Hydrological Decade, declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the period 1965–1974,

Stressing the urgent need to raise awareness of and to promote and facilitate actions and sustainable measures towards preserving glaciers, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate, as well as its integrated management at all levels,

Recognizing the importance of initiatives related to the Earth's cryosphere for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and for the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028,

Taking note of the outcomes of the second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028,

¹ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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

held in Dushanbe from 6 to 9 June 2022, which support the initiative of Tajikistan on declaring an international year of glaciers' preservation in 2025, and noting with appreciation the intention to strengthen an international mechanism to facilitate access to accurate and timely information on the cryosphere,

1. *Decides* to declare 2025 the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and to proclaim 21 March of each year the World Day for Glaciers, to be observed starting in 2025;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to observe the International Year and the World Day, as appropriate, at all levels through activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of glaciers, snow and ice in the climate system and the hydrological cycle, and the economic, social and environmental impacts of the impending changes in the Earth's cryosphere, and to share best practices and knowledge in this regard;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), in cooperation with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate implementation of the International Year and observance of the World Day, to take appropriate steps to organize the activities of the Year and the Day and to develop necessary proposals on all activities to support Member States in the implementation of the Year and observance of the Day;

4. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Tajikistan to convene an international conference dedicated to glaciers' preservation in Tajikistan in 2025 and to assume the costs of the conference;

5. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups, other relevant stakeholders and donors to voluntarily contribute to the trust fund in support of activities for glaciers' preservation,³ to be coordinated by the Secretary-General, in partnership with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, to support countries in addressing issues related to accelerated melting of glaciers and its consequences;

6. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to keep the General Assembly informed at its eighty-first session and further sessions about the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the implementation of the International Year and observance of the World Day;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance of the International Year and the World Day.

*53rd plenary meeting
14 December 2022*

³ The trust fund to support the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.