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**Second Committee****Summary record of the 23rd meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 21 November 2023, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Amorin ..... (Uruguay)**Contents**Agenda item 15: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development (*continued*)Agenda item 16: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)(d) Commodities (*continued*)(f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development (*continued*)(g) Promoting investments for sustainable development (*continued*)Agenda item 18: Sustainable development (*continued*)(c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*)(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)(h) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (*continued*)(j) Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development (*continued*)Agenda item 19: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)(b) Culture and sustainable development (*continued*)(c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (*continued*)

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Agenda item 20: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

- (a) Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)
- (b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (*continued*)

Agenda item 23: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*)

- (b) Natural plant fibres and sustainable development (*continued*)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 15: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development**

*(continued) (A/C.2/78/L.11 and A/C.2/78/L.53)*

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.11 and A/C.2/78/L.53: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development*

1. **The Chair** said that draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.53](#) had no programme budget implications.

2. *Draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.53](#) was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his delegation had outlined its position on trade and technology transfer in the general statement delivered on 9 November 2023, at the Committee's twenty-first meeting.

4. **Mr. Schlaepfer** (Switzerland) said that while his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution and welcomed its adoption, it regretted the absence in the draft resolution of references to the elaboration of the global digital compact. Switzerland also regretted that the wording approved by consensus at the previous session had been rejected as a basis for compromise and had even caused the silence procedure to be broken. It looked forward to the development of the global digital compact in an open and inclusive process, as outlined in the previously approved version of the draft resolution and other General Assembly resolutions. The multi-stakeholder approach, which had played a key role in promoting digital cooperation within the United Nations system, should also guide future processes in the lead-up to the 2024 Summit of the Future. Switzerland would engage constructively in the intergovernmental consultations mandated by the General Assembly, on the modalities and scope of the Summit of the Future.

5. **Mr. Kelsey** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. The United Kingdom looked forward to participating in the development of the global digital compact in order to set out principles, objectives and actions for advancing an open, free, secure and human-centred digital future that was anchored in universal human rights and that enabled the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it was regrettable that the final version of the draft resolution did not contain references to the global digital compact, which was closely related to some of the topics covered therein. It was disappointing that States had not been able to reach an agreement on the retention of language that had enjoyed consensus in General Assembly

resolution [77/150](#). For all of humanity to enjoy the benefits of digital transformation, collective action would be required from Governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and international organizations. It was therefore vital that the global digital compact be developed in an open, transparent and inclusive fashion that enabled meaningful participation of the stakeholder community, to the benefit of all States.

6. **Ms. Bologna** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine; the potential candidate country Georgia; and in addition, Andorra and Monaco, said that her delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which confirmed the importance of information and communications technologies for sustainable development. A multi-stakeholder approach was essential to bridge digital divides, harness the benefits of digital transformation and address related challenges. The conduct of political discussions in the absence of the developers and end users of those technologies was bound to be unfruitful. Multi-stakeholder contributions would be beneficial to the work of the United Nations on digital issues. The development of the global digital compact should be an open and inclusive process that meaningfully reflected the contributions of all stakeholders.

7. The European Union and its member States were concerned that all delegations did not share the foregoing view and regretted that the only compromise reached by the Committee had been the deletion of the paragraph referring to the forthcoming process of developing the global digital compact, despite its inclusion by consensus the year before. There was a need to ensure real stakeholder engagement in the negotiations on the compact. The European Union and its member States would participate constructively in that process, and were of the view that the outcome should strengthen digital cooperation and sustainable, inclusive, human rights-based and multi-stakeholder digital governance. Her delegation welcomed the inclusion of stronger language on gender equality, hoped that preparations for the Summit of the Future would be inclusive and constructive, and referred the Committee to the document entitled "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

8. *Draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.11](#) was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 16: Macroeconomic policy questions** (*continued*)

**(d) Commodities** (*continued*) (A/C.2/78/L.9 and A/C.2/78/L.64)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.9 and A/C.2/78/L.64: Commodities*

9. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.64 had no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.64 was adopted.*

11. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that while his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution, it wished to highlight some concerns. Portions of the text made obsolete references to the world financial and economic crisis, included vague and sweeping references to some trade practices and trade barriers to which supposed negative impacts on economic and social development were attributed, and inappropriately called upon international financial institutions and other non-United Nations organizations to take actions that went beyond the scope of what such draft resolutions should properly address.

12. Trade language negotiated or adopted by or under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had no relevance for the trade policy, obligations or commitments of the United States or for the agenda of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The United Nations should respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and should not involve itself in decisions and actions in other forums, including WTO. In addition, while the United States was active in and supported the WTO Aid for Trade initiative, the United Nations should not opine on the latter's priorities, which were set by WTO members.

13. The United States questioned the references made in the draft resolution to excessive or high price volatility. With regard to trade and market pricing, underlying supply and demand factors could provide effective pricing determination in markets. Any blanket call for policy efforts could be inappropriately aimed at national governmental authorities that sought to artificially set prices or establish market-distorting protectionist barriers. Any such efforts should be consistent with international rules and obligations. His delegation's general statement delivered on 9 November 2023 reflected the full position of the United States on trade, technology transfer, illicit financial flows, the independence of international financial institutions, international financial institution reform and climate change.

14. **Mr. Sowah** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. Stable commodity markets were crucial to economic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2022, the volatility of commodity markets, including food and energy markets, had hit the world's most vulnerable populations the hardest. The United Kingdom would continue to work with its partners to help countries diversify their economies, improve their resilience and make commodity markets more efficient, responsive and transparent.

15. While the United Kingdom appreciated the important role played by critical minerals in the energy transition, it regretted that greater consideration had not been given to the role of sustainable global supply chains, which were critical for attracting investors. His delegation had taken note of the "wake-up call for action" issued by United Nations agencies in their recent global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 and urged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to formally request support from multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, in order to accelerate the measurement of data on corruption and illicit financial flows by 2030.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.9 was withdrawn.*

**(f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/78/L.16 and A/C.2/78/L.52)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.16 and A/C.2/78/L.52: Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development*

17. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.52 had no programme budget implications.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.52 was adopted.*

19. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. The United States strongly supported the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noted that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime played a central role in supporting efforts to promote transparency, strengthen the rule of law and combat corruption. However, the United States was concerned that the term "illicit financial flows" lacked an agreed international definition, when applied to the proceeds of crime. Calls for and commitments to preventing and combating illicit financial flows referred

to the implementation by Member States of their existing obligations and commitments to prevent and combat corruption, money-laundering, terrorist financing and other forms of illicit finance, through robust implementation of the Financial Action Task Force recommendations and the best practices enshrined in existing international architecture.

20. Reducing illicit financial flows should fundamentally begin with preventing and combating the acts of corruption that facilitated such flows. Countries should prioritize domestic efforts to counter corruption and money-laundering, in accordance with their international treaty obligations, particularly those enumerated in the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The United States remained concerned that the draft resolution placed too much focus on vague commitments to address the ill-defined concept of illicit financial flows, instead of pressing countries to take the domestic actions required to combat crimes and fulfil their commitments and obligations.

21. The international framework for asset recovery was primarily outlined in the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which prescribed the measures States parties needed to adopt and implement to successfully detect, restrain and confiscate the proceeds of crime. The draft resolution misinterpreted several of those obligations, and the United States noted that nothing in the text changed or nullified existing asset recovery treaty obligations. In addition, the United States expressed its concern about the overemphasis placed in the text on asset return, to the detriment of other integral parts of the asset recovery process. To successfully recover assets, countries needed to have the political will and capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption crimes domestically. More focus should be placed on ensuring that all countries were domestically able to more effectively pursue all stages of the asset recovery process, including asset identification, detection, prosecution and confiscation.

22. The Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was the lead body of the United Nations for the promotion of anti-corruption and related anti-crime policy, and was the appropriate venue for addressing the recovery and return of the proceeds of crimes. The draft resolution undermined that body's role in leading global discussions and the language used therein undermined Member States' ability to jointly and constructively address money-laundering, corruption and other related crimes.

23. **Ms. Pauli** (Switzerland) said that, while Switzerland was pleased to join the consensus and welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, certain of its elements were problematic. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters was an important platform for the exchange of views on technical issues relating to international taxation and its status should not be changed. Given that the Second Committee had, the year before, proposed a draft resolution devoted exclusively to international taxation, questions pertaining to that subject should be addressed under that draft resolution, rather than in the context of the draft resolution on illicit financial flows. In addition, it was regrettable that the conceptual framework drafted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to measure illicit financial flows had not been further integrated into the text of the draft resolution. It was important to have a nuanced approach to the concept of illicit financial flows, as proposed by her delegation on several occasions during the negotiations.

24. Switzerland wished to underscore the importance and relevance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a whole, and regretted that most of the references in the draft resolution pertained only to its fifth chapter. The Convention contained eight chapters and it was vital not to single out any one of them. It was unfortunate that the critical role of stakeholders was not better reflected in the text.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.16 was withdrawn.*

**(g) Promoting investments for sustainable development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/78/L.17 and A/C.2/78/L.62)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.17 and A/C.2/78/L.62: Promoting investments for sustainable development*

26. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.62 had no programme budget implications.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.62 was adopted.*

28. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that foreign direct investment in developing countries was essential for achieving sustainable development and the United States was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. The United States supported high-quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure through initiatives such as the Blue Dot Network, which sought to attract additional private sector investment for quality infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries by certifying projects meeting international standards and signalling to investors that such projects presented a lower risk profile.

29. The term “most vulnerable” was commonly understood to emphasize the importance of international public finance, rather than “those in vulnerable situations”. The position of the United States on multilateral development banks and their mandates, international financial institution reform, and knowledge and technology transfers was reflected in its general statement delivered on 9 November 2023.

30. **Mr. Sowah** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and welcomed the commitments set out therein, including on the establishment of responsible and transparent financial practices and the development of project pipelines and bankable projects. The United Kingdom had committed to mobilizing \$40 billion by the end of 2027, through its British Investment Partnerships initiative, for global infrastructure and economic development. While clean green development was critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it often failed to maximize support owing to inadequate investment and governance challenges. Sound infrastructure governance was essential for ensuring the long-term cost-effectiveness, economic efficiency, accountability, transparency and integrity of infrastructure investments.

31. As outlined in its recently launched white paper on international development, the United Kingdom would continue to increase private sector investment in sustainable development and the Goals, in order to help end extreme poverty, tackle climate change and biodiversity loss and accelerate sustainable economic growth.

32. **Mr. Murillo Ferrer** (Colombia) said that, while his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it was disappointed and concerned that the text did not highlight the importance of substantially scaling up investments in the acceleration of the energy transition and the increased usage of renewable energies. Existing data showed that the energy sector accounted for more than half of the annual financing gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. During the previous decade, investments in renewable energies had been concentrated in developed countries, while developing countries continued to face challenges in attracting capital, long-term foreign direct investment and bankable projects.

33. It was contradictory for the Committee to highlight the seriousness of the climate crisis and the importance of taking stronger and more ambitious action to combat climate change, when there was no willingness to address factual issues relating to energy, which was a key element of the fight. That trend had

been evident throughout the year, in the outcome document of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit) and in the outcomes of the Committee’s current session. Colombia regretted the attempts made to roll back already limited progress and the inclusion in the draft resolution of references to increased investment in fossil fuels, which was contrary to global environmental commitments. Such references represented a collective failure that should be urgently corrected.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.17 was withdrawn.*

#### **Agenda item 18: Sustainable development** (continued) (A/C.2/78/L.26/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.26/Rev.1: The pivotal role of reliable and stable energy connectivity in driving sustainable development*

35. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.26/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

36. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan), introducing the draft resolution, said that the text was a continuation of the energy connectivity process started by Turkmenistan more than 10 years before, when it had initiated resolutions on stable energy transit that had been adopted by consensus in 2008 and 2013. The ultimate goal of reliable and stable energy transportation and connectivity was to ensure continued progress towards achieving strong economies, low energy prices and long-term guaranteed energy supplies. Without such energy connectivity and transportation, developing countries, in particular those in special situations, would be unable to meet their own energy demands and ensure energy security. Energy transportation hubs played an important role in the reliable and stable transit of energy to international markets, and there was a need to restart the Ashgabat process: financing for better connectivity, with a focus on cross-border cooperation, energy resource diversification, investment, innovation and capacity-building.

37. In that regard, an international meeting of energy connectivity experts would be convened in early 2024, in Turkmenistan, where the seventh Sustainable Energy for All Forum would be held in 2026, with a view to supporting the full and comprehensive achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7. In the lead-up to those events, her delegation hoped to collect the views of Member States and United Nations agencies on current



challenges and opportunities relating to the pursuit of stable energy connectivity through reliable transportation and transmission systems.

38. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Singapore, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tonga, Türkiye, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

39. She then noted that the following delegations also wished to become sponsors: Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, , Timor-Leste and Tuvalu.

40. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.26/Rev.1 was adopted.*

**(c) Disaster risk reduction (continued)**  
(A/C.2/78/L.33 and A/C.2/78/L.55)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.33 and A/C.2/78/L.55:  
Disaster risk reduction*

41. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.55 had no programme budget implications.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.55 was adopted.*

43. **Ms. Prosser** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that Member States had worked together to deliver two important high-level documents, namely the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/78/L.55. The world was facing increasingly frequent, complex, compounding and concurrent crises, which required closer collaboration within the international community. Disasters exacerbated existing inequalities and disproportionately affected women and girls, persons with disabilities, young people, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQI+ persons, older persons and other marginalized communities, who had uneven levels of resilience and capacities to recover. Resilience for all required a whole-of-society effort and the full integration of inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation into policies and programmes at all levels.

44. Australia, Canada and New Zealand recognized the influential contribution of women leaders at the local, national and international levels, and were pleased that both the political declaration and the draft resolution acknowledged the development of the Gender

Action Plan, which would help Member States to achieve gender transformative disaster risk reduction by identifying priority actions for accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The world was not on track to achieve the targets laid out in the Sendai Framework, and efforts in that regard should be scaled up. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to that endeavour and urged all Member States to capitalize on recently generated momentum and goodwill to build disaster and climate resilience and leave no one behind.

45. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that the United States strongly supported disaster risk reduction, including through its humanitarian and development assistance efforts and technical cooperation with other nations to improve disaster preparation and response. The position of the United States on the 2030 Agenda, the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Sendai Framework and voluntary and mutually agreed technology transfers was set out in its general statement delivered on 9 November 2023.

46. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.33 was withdrawn.*

**(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (continued)** (A/C.2/78/L.36 and A/C.2/78/L.58)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.36 and A/C.2/78/L.58:  
Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa*

47. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.58 had no programme budget implications.

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.58 was adopted.*

49. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that the United States supported the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and its global efforts to reduce land degradation, increase land restoration and build resilience to drought. Her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution but wished to clarify its position on some elements. While the Abidjan Call was a useful document, it was not a negotiated document and had not been approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification. It had been agreed to by a limited number of countries that had

attended the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and, accordingly, should not be included in the draft resolution. The position of the United States on technology transfer was reflected in its general statement delivered on 9 November 2023.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.36 was withdrawn.*

**(h) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**  
(continued) (A/C.2/78/L.42 and A/C.2/78/L.61)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.42 and A/C.2/78/L.61:  
Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*

51. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.61 had no programme budget implications.

52. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.61 was adopted.*

53. **Mr. Meschchanov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution, but regretted that the text did not contain an extremely important paragraph on the role of atomic energy. The potential contribution of nuclear power towards meeting growing energy needs and combating climate change had been recognized by States members of the International Atomic Energy Agency in a recently adopted resolution. Nuclear energy produced neither air pollution nor greenhouse gas emissions and was therefore a low-carbon option for generating electricity. The draft resolution on access to energy could not be classed as universal if it failed to make even a passing reference to atomic energy technologies, which were key to the sector. His delegation urged Member States to consider including such a reference in future versions of the text.

54. **Mr. Fidoe** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom was firmly committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and closing existing gaps by 2030. Accordingly, it welcomed the latest version of the draft resolution, which should be framed in the context of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change. His delegation welcomed the acknowledgement in the text of the crucial role of renewable energies, energy efficiency, clean energy and abatement technologies. However, the United Kingdom did not agree with the language used in the draft resolution to refer to fossil fuels. The world had progressed since the launch of the 2030 Agenda, and clean energy technologies presented economic opportunities for all. The international community should help the least developed countries to capitalize on those opportunities and avoid over-

emphasizing fossil fuels, even though abated gas could play a key role in some countries' energy transition. Consequently, the United Kingdom wished to disassociate itself from paragraph 10 of the draft resolution and would continue to make its position on that matter clear in other international forums.

55. The United Kingdom welcomed the draft resolution on energy connectivity, which recognized the different modes of moving energy across the global market. As nations grew their domestic renewable and clean energy capabilities, expanded critical capacity would enable them to efficiently share electricity across borders. Nationally installed renewable and clean energies, such as nuclear energy, would help to reduce reliance on traditional energy imports and support energy independence. His Government had recently launched a white paper entitled "International development in a contested world: ending extreme poverty and tackling climate change", which outlined its plan to accelerate the elimination of extreme poverty and address climate change and biodiversity loss, while bolstering sustainable economic growth.

56. **Mr. Kaspar** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; the potential candidate country Georgia; and in addition, Andorra and Monaco, said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution and was committed to ensuring universal energy access for all and expanding the share of renewable energy in every country's energy mix, for a more stable energy supply and greater energy efficiency. However, the European Union and its member States would have preferred a stronger reference to the link between urgent emissions reductions under the Paris Agreement and the transition to a fully or predominantly decarbonized global power system, and regretted that the draft resolution had retained references to cleaner fossil fuels and the role of natural gas.

57. Given that the energy sector accounted for approximately two thirds of all greenhouse gas emissions, there was a need to transition away from fossil fuels by tripling renewable energy production, doubling the rate of energy efficiency and transforming the sector. Only then would it be possible to sustainably supply more people with energy and slow down climate change. An ambitious collective decision on those energy and energy efficiency goals should be adopted at the upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, together with a



pathway for phasing out fossil fuels, in order to align energy investments and send a clear signal to international energy markets. The European Union and its member States looked forward to the global stocktake on energy, which was scheduled to be held in 2024, and called for an ambitious result that would keep energy high on the United Nations agenda.

58. **Ms. Ríos Serna** (Colombia) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution as it was of the view that Sustainable Development Goal 7 had the potential to catalyse the achievement of many other Goals, including those aimed at poverty eradication and climate action. The climate crisis was closely linked to the use of fossil fuels and the international community could no longer ignore the fact that energy generation was a primary source of global greenhouse gas emissions. In that regard, Colombia regretted that, once again, it had not been possible to reach an agreement on a clearer recognition of the links between Goals 7 and 13 and on the commitment made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement to phase out coal energy and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

59. Her delegation also regretted the lack of progress towards issuing a clear call for a just and inclusive energy transition and for accelerated use of renewable and zero-emission energies, and hoped that future versions of the draft resolution would better reflect the urgency of the situation. It rejected attempts to broaden the language relating to the use of fossil fuels at a time when all efforts should be focused on phasing them out. Colombia was committed to decarbonizing the energy sector, reducing dependence on hydrocarbons and democratizing clean energy generation through the establishment of energy communities. Renewable energies should be a substitute for and not a complement to fossil fuels.

60. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that the United States strongly supported the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. In the light of the increasingly severe impacts of the climate crisis, the achievement of Goal 7 could not be separated from the fulfilment of the commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Since the energy sector accounted for over two thirds of total emissions, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all should take into account the need for a global energy transition to achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050, or before. In that context, the United States wished to disassociate itself from paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, as it did

not accept text that recognized the role played by natural gas in supporting energy transitions, without any commitment to decarbonization.

61. The United States was committed to working closely with developing countries to urgently transition to non-fossil fuel energy systems, while enhancing global energy security and meeting collective climate goals. It did not wish to further the impact of long-term investment in natural gas infrastructure in the developing world. The draft resolution would have been stronger if paragraph 10 had been deleted or qualified by adding the term “abated” when referring to natural gas. Her delegation echoed the call adopted by consensus at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for all countries to accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power and phase out inefficient fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable for a just transition. The decline in financial flows mentioned in the text did not fully reflect the lowered cost of renewable energy development or the increasing number of renewable energy projects in developing countries that had benefited from international investment. Furthermore, her delegation did not support language in the text that only highlighted one particular target under Goal 7.

62. The position of the United States on the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, trade, technology transfer, disaster risk reduction and climate change was reflected in its general statement delivered on 9 November 2023.

63. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.42 was withdrawn.*

**(j) Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development (continued)**  
(A/C.2/78/L.40/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.40/Rev.1: Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development*

64. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, with regard to paragraph 17 of the draft resolution, the report would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one pre-session document with a word count of 8,500 words in all six languages in 2025. Additional resources requirements for documentation would arise in 2025 in the amount of \$24,500. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.40/Rev.1, the additional resource requirements in the amount of

\$24,500 would be included in the proposed programme budget for 2025 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. The Committee's attention was also drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 77/262 of 30 December 2022, in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and had reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

65. **Ms. El Hilali** (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution, said that the concept of integrated coastal zone management had emerged as an approach for addressing coastal degradation. With some 37 per cent of the world population living within 100 kilometres of a coastline, coastal urbanization, industrial and tourism development, fishing, aquaculture and agriculture in coastal watersheds often lacked coordinated planning, thereby creating the need for an integrated management approach to sustainably address the impact of human activities on ecosystems. The draft resolution underscored the multifaceted approach of integrated coastal zone management, which, in practice, should be implemented through partnerships involving different countries and stakeholders.

66. At the national level, Morocco placed particular importance on sustainable coastal development and the African blue economy in general. Her Government had embarked on a strategic path towards rehabilitating coastal areas and promoting the blue economy, while underscoring the importance of African countries' economic considerations. Morocco remained committed to maritime and coastal regional cooperation within the Mediterranean Sea, with a view to promoting the sustainable use of coastal areas. The draft resolution sought to celebrate the efforts made by all Member States, including those without coastal exposure, to enhance their participation in global trade by mainstreaming coastal zone management for the benefit of regional economic interests, infrastructural development and environmental conservation at the national and regional levels.

67. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Barbados, Belgium, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Netherlands

(Kingdom of), Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Viet Nam.

68. She then noted that the following delegations also wished to become sponsors: Belize, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Czechia, Finland, France, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan.

69. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.40/Rev.1 was adopted.*

70. **Ms. Demir** (Türkiye) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. While Türkiye was fully committed to the protection of coastal and marine environments and supported efforts to strengthen cooperation on integrated and sustainable coastal zone management, it was not a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It was of the view that the Convention was not the only legal framework regulating all activities in the oceans and seas. The reasons that had prevented Türkiye from becoming a State party to the Convention remained valid. Türkiye therefore wished to disassociate itself from references to the Convention in the draft resolution. Those references should therefore not be interpreted as a change in the legal position of Türkiye.

71. **Mr. Gambert** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; the potential candidate country Georgia; and in addition, Monaco, said that the European Union and its member States welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution. They confirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation for improved integrated coastal zone management to protect coastal and marine ecosystems and support the development of a sustainable blue economy. His delegation welcomed the call made in the draft resolution to address the issue of marine litter and prevent, reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds. It also welcomed the link made in the text with the 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. The European Union and its member States appreciated the progress made during the first and second sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment and

wished to underscore the objective adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme to conclude those negotiations by the end of 2024.

72. However, it was regrettable that no agreement could be reached on highlighting the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 14, which were essential to the implementation of integrated coastal zone management, using a source-to-sea approach. It was unfortunate that discussions on water within the Committee had been pushed back by some delegations. While the European Union had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it wished to disassociate itself from the second preambular paragraph. In its view, the omnibus resolution on oceans and the law of the sea should remain the authoritative source for any reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in General Assembly resolutions. In that regard, he referred the Committee to the details of the statement made the day before by the European Union, upon the adoption of the draft resolution on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea ([A/C.2/78/L.25/Rev.1](#)). For the foregoing reasons, joining the consensus on or sponsoring the draft resolution did not imply support by the European Union for the language used in the second preambular paragraph or in any other future resolution.

73. **Ms. Curzio Vila** (Mexico) said that her explanation of position applied to the draft resolution currently under consideration and to the recently adopted draft resolution on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea ([A/C.2/78/L.25/Rev.1](#)). While Mexico was pleased to join the consensus on both draft resolutions, with regard to the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution under consideration, she wished to emphasize the universal and unitary character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which set out the legal framework governing all activities in the oceans and seas, as stated in General Assembly resolution [77/248](#). That paragraph could not be used as a precedent in other resolutions of the General Assembly on the law of the sea.

74. **Ms. Ríos Serna** (Colombia) said that Colombia had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution because it recognized the importance of strengthening international cooperation for integrated coastal management and other area-based management mechanisms. Such cooperation could help to bolster sustainable development, reduce poverty, support livelihoods and food security in coastal communities, improve adaptation and resilience to climate change and improve disaster risk management. In that regard, her delegation supported all measures that contributed to addressing the triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, including in the marine environment.

75. However, Colombia wished to disassociate itself from the second preambular paragraph and clarify that sponsorship of the draft resolution could not be understood as acceptance of the content of that paragraph. Her country had not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and was not bound by the latter's principles and provisions, with the exception of those that it had expressly accepted. Furthermore, Colombia was of the view that the Convention was not the only legal framework governing ocean activities.

76. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. The United States supported the sustainable use and management of coastal zones and marine ecosystems. In September 2023, it had joined over 80 nations in signing the new 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. That historical agreement would protect international waters for the first time and reflected the will of countries to take joint action towards restoring ocean health, which was closely interlinked with the climate crisis. The global plastic pollution crisis required swift action. The previous week, the United States had joined countries from across the world in Nairobi, for the third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Such an ambitious and inclusive instrument should have universal obligations for all parties, with a view to eliminating the release of plastic into the environment by 2040.

77. With respect to coastal zones, 18 countries had endorsed the Ocean Conservation Pledge, an initiative announced by the United States at the seventh “Our Ocean” Conference. The Pledge ambitiously encouraged countries to commit to conserving or protecting at least 30 per cent of the ocean waters under their national jurisdiction by 2030, in support of the 30 by 30 target. It could serve as an additional lever to motivate countries to protect and restore their coastal blue carbon ecosystems and avoid shifting those ecosystems from carbon sinks to carbon sources. Her delegation’s general statement delivered on 9 November 2023 reflected the position of the United States on technology transfer, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

78. **Mr. Nishigori** (Japan) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. Japan always emphasized the importance of effective and integrated coastal management systems, but regretted that the oral statement in connection with paragraph 17 of the draft resolution on the proposed programme budget for 2025 had been issued and circulated by the Secretariat after the conclusion of the silence procedure and one day before the scheduled adoption date. While the additional cost for the report requested in the draft resolution was technically unavoidable and had quite likely been foreseen, it was unfortunate that it had not been clearly explained during informal discussions on the matter, despite the various queries made by his delegation about programme budget implications. Japan had raised similar concerns about previous versions of the draft resolution and was of the view that important aspects such as programme budget implications should be discussed in detail during prior consultations in the interests of transparency. His delegation hoped that the issue would be appropriately addressed at the eightieth session of the General Assembly.

79. **Ms. Marin Sevilla** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her explanation of position applied to the draft resolution currently under consideration and to the draft resolution on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea (A/C.2/78/L.25/Rev.1). The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was not a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and was not bound by its norms, under either conventional international law or international custom, except insofar as explicitly recognized by Venezuelan legislation. While her delegation had joined the consensus on both draft resolutions, it wished to establish express reservations

about references contained in both texts to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

80. **Mr. Momeni** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had its own integrated controlled zone management plan and recognized the importance of cooperation in coastal zone management. The Islamic Republic of Iran was not a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and wished to disassociate itself from the paragraphs of the draft resolution that contained references to that Convention.

#### **Agenda item 19: Globalization and interdependence** (*continued*)

##### **(b) Culture and sustainable development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/78/L.13 and A/C.2/78/L.56)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.13 and A/C.2/78/L.56: Culture and sustainable development*

81. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.56 had no programme budget implications.

82. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.56 was adopted.*

83. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. The United States strongly supported the critical work being done to address culture and sustainable development and the right to equal pay for equal work, as a means of eradicating discrimination in employment and realizing women’s right to work. That right required equal pay, including salary and other benefits, for work needing substantially equal skill, effort and responsibility, under similar working conditions within the same establishment. However, that right did not require equal pay for work of equal value.

84. Her delegation’s general statement delivered on 9 November 2023 reflected the position of the United States on international financial institutions, illicit financial flows, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, climate change and human rights.

85. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.13 was withdrawn.*

##### **(c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries** (*continued*) (A/C.2/78/L.14 and A/C.2/78/L.63)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.14 and A/C.2/78/L.63: Development cooperation with middle-income countries*

86. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.63 had no programme budget implications.

87. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.63 was adopted.*



88. **Mr. Murillo Ferrer** (Colombia) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and welcomed the call to advance a United Nations system-wide strategy to effectively support middle-income countries and improve the assistance provided to them, in keeping with the unique nature of their multidimensional challenges. Middle-income countries had been making similar calls for several years, particularly since the establishment of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries in 2016. The call was a step in the right direction to strengthen cooperation that was tailored to the needs of developing countries and went beyond their sub-categorizations and income levels. Colombia looked forward to concrete progress on the elaboration of the strategy in the coming year.

89. However, it was concerning that there had been no agreement on the inclusion of the draft resolution among the agenda items of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, which was a missed opportunity in the lead-up to major financing for development milestones, such as the Summit of the Future and the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled to be held in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Colombia looked forward to the solidarity of all Member States during the negotiation processes of those two events to advance the priorities of middle-income countries, given that the draft resolution would not provide an opportunity to do so at the next session of the General Assembly.

90. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and wished to clarify its position on some issues. The 2030 Agenda stated that the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development would work in the spirit of global solidarity, in particular with the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, and would bring together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors, in support of the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The United States was committed to working with the people and institutions that were best positioned to drive change in their countries and communities, to lead on the setting of priorities, design, implementation and measuring of results. The general statement delivered by her delegation on 9 November 2023 reflected the position of the United States on trade, technology transfer, consensus documents, the 2030 Agenda, the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the independence of other forums and institutions, official development assistance, debt, concessional finance, reform of the international

financial institutions and the evolution of multilateral banks.

91. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.14 was withdrawn.*

#### **Agenda item 20: Groups of countries in special situations** (*continued*)

##### **(a) Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries** (*continued*) (A/C.2/78/L.2 and A/C.2/78/L.57)

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.2 and A/C.2/78/L.57: Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*

92. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/78/L.70 and submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

93. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.57 was adopted.*

94. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that the United States attached great importance to its relationships with and the needs of the least developed countries and was committed to working with those countries to advance shared objectives and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and wished to clarify its position on some points.

95. With regard to paragraph 23, the United States noted that targets had been set in paragraph 139 of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, including that of doubling financing from all sources in support of clean and renewable energy. With respect to references to tailored programmes, in keeping with the principle of country ownership and in accordance with the Doha Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, the bilateral cooperation programmes of the United States were country-specific and reflected the priorities of the national sustainable development strategies of the least developed countries.

96. With regard to paragraphs 5, 11, 17, 33 and 48, she referred to the general statement delivered by her delegation on 9 November 2023, which set out the position of the United States on trade, technology transfer, debt, the independence of multilateral development banks and the International Monetary Fund and international financial institution reform.

97. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.2 was withdrawn.*



**(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (continued) (A/C.2/78/L.3 and A/C.2/78/L.54)**

*Draft resolutions A/C.2/78/L.3 and A/C.2/78/L.54: Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries*

98. **The Chair** said that A/C.2/78/L.54 had no programme budget implications.

99. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.54 was adopted.*

100. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. The United States remained committed to supporting landlocked developing countries and wished to clarify its position on some issues raised in the text. With regard to paragraph 15, the United States supported and participated in blended finance operations, which were an effective way of catalysing private finance and expertise to advance sustainable development. However, the assertion that blended finance always involved concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance, and public and private sector expertise was limiting and inconsistent with existing evidence. Public finance did not need to be concessional or fully concessional to attract private partners. Conversely, private finance could be offered at below-market rates, for example when sourced from foundations or other non-profit private entities. It would be most beneficial to partner countries if the terms of public and private blended finance were less narrowly specified and retained the key characteristic of public-private blending.

101. The United States was of the view that trade language that had been negotiated or adopted within the United Nations system had no relevance for its own trade policy, obligations or commitments or for the WTO agenda, including discussions and negotiations within that forum. While the United Nations and WTO shared common interests, they had different roles, rules and memberships. That view also applied to calls to adopt approaches that could undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfers that were not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms. Her delegation's general statement delivered on 9 November 2023 reflected the position of the United States on geopolitical developments, the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the role and actions of WTO and international financial institutions, trade and technology transfer.

102. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.3 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 23: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (continued)**

**(b) Natural plant fibres and sustainable development (continued) (A/C.2/78/L.32/Rev.1)**

*Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.32/Rev.1: Natural plant fibres and sustainable development*

103. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.32/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

104. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh), introducing the draft resolution, said that it invited Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to promote the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres, including through the advancement of sustainable agricultural, ecosystem-based and other management and conservation approaches integrating small-scale producers, family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women and young people. The draft resolution also encouraged Member States to strengthen political support, mobilize resources, build capacities, and properly manage and build momentum for the sustainable production, consumption and use of natural plant fibres at the local, national, regional and international levels. The fibre industry, which was one of the world's oldest industries, generated millions of jobs and connected remote producers to global markets. Natural fibres were a good alternative to synthetic fibres and plastic-based products, and their production, consumption and use could contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

105. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Cambodia, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Slovakia, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

106. She then noted that the following delegations also wished to become sponsors: Austria, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Ireland, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Nepal, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Türkiye.

107. *Draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.32/Rev.1 was adopted.*

108. **Ms. Kroeker-Maus** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution. The position of the United States on technology transfer and other issues was reflected in its general statement delivered on 9 November 2023.

*The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.*