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Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Uganda:* draft resolution

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [78/132](#) of 19 December 2023 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, as well as previous resolutions on the issue,¹

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution [2024/13](#) of 23 July 2024 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, as well as previous resolutions on the issue,²

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,

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [ES-10/23](#) of 10 May 2024.

¹ Resolutions [56/183](#), [57/238](#), [59/220](#), [60/252](#), [62/182](#), [63/202](#), [64/187](#), [65/141](#), [66/184](#), [67/195](#), [68/198](#), [69/204](#), [70/184](#), [71/212](#), [72/200](#), [73/218](#), [74/197](#), [75/202](#), [76/189](#) and [77/150](#).

² Economic and Social Council resolutions [2006/46](#), [2008/3](#), [2009/7](#), [2010/2](#), [2011/16](#), [2012/5](#), [2013/9](#), [2014/27](#), [2015/26](#), [2016/22](#), [2017/21](#), [2018/28](#), [2019/24](#), [2020/12](#), [2021/28](#), [2022/15](#) and [2023/3](#).



Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,³

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development and as a forum in the examination of science and technology questions and the role of science and technology as enablers for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the advancement of understanding of science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries, and the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters for development within the United Nations system,

Recognizing also the role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which includes the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the online platform, as a tool to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders in order to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through forging partnerships, such as the Partnership in Action on STI for SDGs Road Maps,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,⁴ and endorsed by the General Assembly,⁵ and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,⁶ and endorsed by the Assembly,⁷

Recalling also the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and reiterating calls for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda, as well as other relevant intergovernmental outcomes,

Recalling further the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,⁸ held in New York on 15 and 16 December 2015, in which it took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, addressed potential information and communications technology gaps and identified areas for continued focus,

³ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁴ See [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex.

⁵ See resolution [59/220](#).

⁶ See [A/60/687](#).

⁷ See resolution [60/252](#).

⁸ Resolution [70/125](#).

Reaffirming its common desire and commitment to the World Summit on the Information Society vision as laid out in the Geneva Declaration of Principles,

Reaffirming also the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, which provides an overview of implementation action lines, challenges, vision and priority areas, and recognizing the need for all people to have media and information literacy skills, which are important in order to fully participate in an inclusive information society,

Recognizing that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies, stressing the need to close the digital divides, both between and within countries and including the rural-urban, youth-older persons, disability and gender digital divides, as well as those affecting people in vulnerable situations, recognizing that these divides may reflect and amplify existing inequalities between and within countries, emphasizing in that regard the importance of harnessing information and communications technologies for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,⁹

Taking note also of the report on the economic impact of broadband in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, jointly prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the International Telecommunication Union, as well as the United Nations E-Government Survey prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,

Recognizing that the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,¹⁰ the Gaborone Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034 and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity¹¹ aim to leverage the potential of science, technology and innovation to address the sustainable development challenges facing the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, respectively,

Noting the call for the continuation of annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council, and reaffirming the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit,

Noting also the holding of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development from 15 to 19 April 2024, and looking forward to the twenty-eighth session, which will have as priority themes

⁹ [A/79/62-E/2024/3](#)

¹⁰ Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

¹¹ Resolution [78/317](#), annex.

“Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization” and “Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development”, thus providing a platform for all stakeholders to share experiences and pursue partnerships for capacity-building,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled “The age of digital interdependence”, submitted to the Secretary-General on 10 June 2019, also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”, presented on 11 June 2020,¹² as well as the establishment of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, and further taking note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”,¹³ to improve digital cooperation, with a view to bridging digital divides and accelerating the positive contribution that digital technologies can play in society, including towards achieving the 2030 Agenda,

Looking forward to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact,¹⁴ taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities and applicable legal frameworks, to harness digital technologies to fast-track progress in the achievement of sustainable development in all its three dimensions, and to bridge the digital divides within countries and between developed and developing countries, while acknowledging the need to ensure the provision of the required means of implementation to developing countries, including the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of technology to support its implementation,

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme,

Taking note of the United Nations Development Programme Digital Strategy 2022–2025, which seeks to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts towards digital transformation through the creation of inclusive and resilient digital ecosystems,

Taking note also of the report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development entitled *The State of Broadband Report 2024: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Universal Connectivity*,

Recognizing the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, by lowering barriers to economic participation, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development entitled *Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future*,

¹² [A/74/821](#).

¹³ [A/75/982](#).

¹⁴ Resolution [79/1](#), annex I.

Noting the tax challenges arising from digitalization of the economy and the importance of ensuring that tax is paid where value is created, and noting also international efforts to address this issue,

Stressing, however, that recent progress notwithstanding, important and growing digital divides remain between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, stressing also the urgent need to close digital divides, including with regard to such issues as the affordability of the Internet, and to ensure that the benefits of information and communications technologies, including new technologies, are available to all, stressing further that the development of enabling technologies for digital transformation is concentrated in few countries, in this regard reaffirming its commitment to significantly increasing access to information and communications technologies and striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020, and noting the many efforts to help to bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁵

Stressing the necessity for all forms of development cooperation, including aid flows, to promote digital transformation,

Recalling the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the recommendations for action in bridging the gender digital divide contained in its progress report, and taking note of the report of the Working Group on Education of the Broadband Commission entitled “Digital skills for life and work”,

Recognizing that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizing the need to target science, technology and innovation strategies to address the empowerment of women and girls and to reduce inequalities, including the gender digital divide,

Noting with great concern the fact that a gender digital divide persists in women’s access to and use and development of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and in this regard welcoming the many initiatives that focus on access, skills and leadership to promote the equal participation of women and girls in the digital age, such as the International Girls in ICT Day of the International Telecommunication Union and the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, known as the Equals Partnership,

Noting with great concern also that many developing countries lack meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications

¹⁵ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

technologies, data management, and promote inclusive digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides,

Reaffirming the linkage between data and development, and recognizing the importance of data free flow, while respecting applicable legal frameworks, to make digital public infrastructure interoperable,

Recognizing the need to focus on capacity-development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society,

Recognizing also that harnessing the benefits of digital technologies for inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities requires the advancement of connectivity, capacities and content, and electricity coverage, and acknowledging the need for access to broadband Internet and technology devices, digital inclusion and literacy, and to incorporate digital competencies into the education system for the capacity-building of educators and students,

Noting that a range of topics continues to emerge on issues related to the access to and use and applications of information and communications technologies and their effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Noting with concern that existing artificial intelligence and other digital divides within countries and between developed and developing countries continue to widen, and that developing countries face unique challenges in keeping pace with the rapid acceleration of artificial intelligence development, and acknowledging the need to better realize the benefits of artificial intelligence, especially in developing countries, while recognizing the potential negative impacts of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-generated content on sustainable development, such as on labour markets,

Recognizing the important role that information and communications technologies can play in protecting the environment and addressing climate change,

Reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasizing that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also that Internet governance, including the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis,

Taking note of the “WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event”, held in Geneva from 27 to 31 May 2024, co-hosted by Switzerland and the International Telecommunication Union,

Recalling the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, most recently held in Kyoto, Japan, in 2023, and taking note of the meeting to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2024,

Recalling also the convening of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet, based on the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding the structure and composition of the Working Group, as requested by the General

Assembly in its resolution [70/125](#) of 16 December 2015 and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2017/21](#), and taking note of its work,

Noting that information and communications technologies can help to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and noting also that, inter alia, the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Development Programme have an important role in supporting Member States in the implementation of the Goals,

Noting also that technological change includes new and powerful tools for development, and mindful of its impacts, opportunities and challenges and that Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and the technical and academic communities should take into account the social, economic, ethical, cultural and technical issues related to rapid technological advancements in order to deepen their understanding of how to harness their potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognizing that the effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, have been and continue to be vital in developing the information society,

Recognizing the important contributions and full participation of all stakeholders to help bridge, in their roles and responsibilities, the digital divides,

Acknowledging that differences in individual stakeholders' capabilities to both use and create information and communications technologies represent a knowledge divide that perpetuates inequality,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States in preventing and combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to continue international cooperation in this regard and to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, at their request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with national and international law,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Noting with grave concern that approximately a third of the world's population, especially women and girls, the elderly and people in vulnerable situations, as well as approximately two thirds of people in the least developed countries, do not have access to the Internet, and noting that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates inequalities caused by the digital divides, since the poorest and the most vulnerable who are the hardest hit are also those who lag behind the most in access to information and communications technologies,

Taking note of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies and new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication, gender equality and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both the public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interactions, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while emphasizing that the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion require equitable and inclusive approaches and strengthened international cooperation to maximize the benefits of the information society;

3. *Recognizes* the potential of information and communications technologies, new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and digital transformation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁶ and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies and digital solutions into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests United Nations system entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of quality and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

5. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the vital importance of multilingualism and local content in the information society, including the promotion, protection and preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity in training data, particularly for the large language models of artificial intelligence, and urges all stakeholders to encourage the creation of, and access to, educational, cultural and scientific content online so as to promote quality of access and ensure that all people and cultures can

¹⁶ Resolution [70/1](#).

express themselves and have access to the Internet in all languages, including Indigenous languages;

6. *Stresses* the important role played by the Government, the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

7. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities, to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

8. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and technical assistance to ensure its full and effective implementation;

9. *Reiterates* the call for support for the full operationalization of all components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and to explore a voluntary funding model in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and relevant United Nations entities;

10. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations system entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Also notes* that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy and that connectivity is correlated with increases in gross domestic product, recognizes the critical importance of expanding the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, including by harnessing data for economic growth, particularly in developing countries;

12. *Reiterates* the request, as contained in the Global Digital Compact, for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a dedicated working group to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development, encourages the working group to report on its progress to the General Assembly, by no later than the eighty-first session, including on follow-up recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements, which may include fundamental principles of data governance at all levels as relevant for development, proposals to support interoperability between national, regional and international data systems, considerations of sharing the benefits of data, and options to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows, including cross-border data flows as relevant for development, and looks forward to the continuation of discussions in the United Nations, building on those outcomes and recognizing the ongoing work of other relevant bodies and stakeholders, including the Statistical Commission, in our efforts to pursue common understandings for data governance at all levels, as relevant for development;

13. *Encourages* countries to take advantage of capacity-building mechanisms and opportunities from the entire United Nations system, and urges developed countries to provide resources necessary to support such efforts;

14. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through initiatives such as eTrade for All, launched by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes that they could fund;

15. *Recognizes* in this regard that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has initiated and implemented rapid e-trade readiness assessments of the least developed countries in cooperation with other donors and organizations in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges related to leveraging e-commerce in the least developed countries;

16. *Looks forward* to the holding of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy, on 11 and 12 December 2024, and the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, from 12 to 14 May 2025;

17. *Recognizes* the need for international cooperation to examine and address the opportunities, risks and challenges associated with dealing with data, including data and personal data protection, and the need for urgent action aimed at reducing digital divides and inequalities in data generation, accessibility and infrastructure, within and among countries and regions, and encourages strengthening of international collaboration on inclusive governance of data and greater interoperability in this regard, building on contributions from international organizations, including the United Nations system, and to find common ground on these issues, ensuring no one is left behind;

18. *Urges* the international community to increase financing for data and statistics and enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to support their efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant, accurate, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, while respecting privacy and data protection;

19. *Further calls upon* the international community to enhance its support to developing countries, including by increasing resources available, to build their capacities to equally and meaningfully benefit from data and participate in the digital economy;

20. *Emphasizes* that efforts to close all digital divides and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital economy, including by harnessing data for economic growth, particularly in developing countries, must be expanded;

21. *Notes* the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development eWeek 2023, under the theme “Shaping the future of the digital economy”, from 4 to 8 December 2023, and its outcome document, The Geneva Vision of the Future of the Digital Economy;

22. *Welcomes* the work of the Information for All Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which aims to assist Member States in formulating policies to bridge digital divides and ensure equitable knowledge societies, and also welcomes the holding of Global Media and Information Literacy Week from 23 to 25 October 2023;

23. *Recognizes* that, despite recent progress and significant gains, there is still uneven growth in access to and the use of information and communications technologies, and expresses concern over the substantial continued digital and broadband divides between and within developed and developing countries, including the fact that while 90 per cent of people use the Internet in developed countries, only 57 per cent of the population of developing countries is online, and that the cost of access is higher in developing countries in relation to average household income, resulting in a lack of affordable access to information and communications technologies;

24. *Stresses* the need to provide universal, meaningful and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, particularly in all developing countries, welcomes efforts by the United Nations to assist countries, upon their request, in achieving this, and calls upon all stakeholders, including the international community, to support further actions, including investment, to improve broadband access and connectivity in developing countries;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of broadband connectivity to users in rural and remote areas, and in this regard notes that small and non-profit community operators, including community networks and other affordable, scalable and inclusive technology and business models that provide last-mile connectivity solutions, as appropriate and among others, can provide these services through, inter alia, appropriate regulatory measures that allow them to gain access to basic infrastructure;

26. *Stresses* the importance of rapid technological change in ensuring food security and nutrition by 2030, and information technology in agriculture systems with due regard for sustainability;

27. *Encourages* research and development, and the development of viable strategies that could result in further competitiveness, investment and rapid reductions in the cost of information and communications technologies, and urges all relevant stakeholders to address the growing digital divides between and within countries through, inter alia, strengthened enabling policy environments at all levels, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and international cooperation to improve affordability, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment, technology transfer, open innovation, open science, access to research infrastructures, voluntary co-development of capacities, exchanges of researchers, scientists and resources, and science and technology assistance to developing countries;

28. *Acknowledges* the importance of more inclusive and equitable access to the benefits of the emerging digital economy, and recognizes that collective efforts are needed towards new rule-setting that not only favours large digital enterprises, but also provides for an open, fair, competitive, inclusive and non-discriminatory business environment, including support for the access of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including those owned or operated by women, to finance, information and markets, while protecting and empowering consumers;

29. *Recognizes* that a gender digital divide persists and that, worldwide, 69 per cent of men use the Internet compared with 63 per cent of women, notes that in the least developed countries only 30 per cent of women use the Internet, compared with 43 per cent of men, and calls upon all stakeholders to close the gender digital divide, ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of all women in the information society and women's access to information and communications technologies for development, including women's and girls' access to new technologies, in this respect reiterates its request for relevant United Nations system entities, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support the implementation and monitoring of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society by enhancing the emphasis on gender equality and all women's empowerment, and reaffirms the commitment to ensuring women's full and meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to information and communications technologies, including policies and approaches to promote women's online safety to facilitate their participation in the digital world, and to address any potential negative impacts of digital technologies on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and committing to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls;

30. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;

31. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

32. *Acknowledges* the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum through 2025, as set out in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

33. *Welcomes* the convening of the nineteenth Internet Governance Forum, to be held in Riyadh from 15 to 19 December 2024, under the theme "Building our multi-stakeholder digital future";

34. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum,¹⁷ in particular those on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

35. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

36. *Notes* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/125](#), to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and also notes that the Working Group ensured the

¹⁷ [A/67/65-E/2012/48](#) and [A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1](#).

full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

37. *Also notes* that the Working Group held five meetings between September 2016 and January 2018 at which it discussed inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/125](#);

38. *Recalls* the report of the Chair of the Working Group,¹⁸ which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

39. *Welcomes* the good progress made by the Working Group in many areas and the fact that consensus seemed to emerge on some issues, while significant divergence of views in a number of other issues persisted, and in that regard regrets that the Working Group could not find agreement on recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda;

40. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and notes the need for continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda;

41. *Encourages* the use of and engagement with forums and expertise available within relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, by all relevant stakeholders to promote global digital cooperation;

42. *Recognizes* that a lack of access to affordable and reliable technologies and services remains a critical challenge in many developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural disasters, and that all efforts should be deployed to reduce the price of information and communications technologies and broadband access, bearing in mind that deliberate interventions, including through open science and open innovation platforms, research and development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, may be necessary to spur the development of lower-cost connectivity options;

43. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education and literacy, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to consider ensuring adequate means of implementation, including appropriate financing for digital development and strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, and in this regard welcomes efforts by United Nations entities in providing such capacity-building support to countries, upon their request;

44. *Encourages* Member States, in particular developed countries, to increase capacity-building cooperation, including policy exchanges, knowledge-sharing activities and the transfer of technology, technical assistance, lifelong learning, personnel training, skilling of workforce, international research cooperation,

¹⁸ See [E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3](#).

voluntary joint international research laboratories and artificial intelligence capacity-building centres, with full consideration of developing countries' national needs, policies and priorities, and to hold training courses, seminars and workshops, among others for sharing experiences and best practices;

45. *Recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;¹⁹

46. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technologies has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

47. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to address the challenges and opportunities in relation to the use of the Internet and e-commerce to develop their international trade capacities, among other things;

48. *Also recognizes* the importance of the free flow of information and knowledge, and the need to reduce disparities in information flows at all levels, as the amount of information distributed worldwide grows and the role of communication becomes all the more important, and acknowledges that the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, open science and open innovation mechanisms, the fostering of competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, the facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development;

49. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries and, in turn, building information and knowledge societies;

50. *Recognizes* that digitally enabled innovation in the financial sector has contributed significantly to the rapid expansion of access to financial services and financial inclusion, enabling progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and showing impacts across the 2030 Agenda, as outlined in the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023*, and supports concrete actions to advance digital financial inclusion and close digital divides between and within countries, while improving responsible digital financial practices and promoting regulatory responses, as

¹⁹ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

appropriate, to protect consumers' interests, financial integrity and system stability, which are mutually reinforcing and also enablers of greater financial inclusion;

51. *Calls for* the promotion of new research and the development and transfer of technologies, including in the areas of food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and energy, in order to contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the achievement of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, human well-being and sustainable development;

52. *Notes* the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes that official development assistance and other concessional financial flows for information and communications technologies can make significant contributions to development outcomes, in particular where they can reduce the risk of public and private investment, and increase the use of information and communications technologies to strengthen good governance and tax collection;

53. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to support more comprehensively those countries that are trailing in the digital economy in order to reduce the digital divides, strengthen the international enabling environment for value creation and build capacities in both the private and public sectors, with a view to increasing productivity and competitiveness;

54. *Recognizes* the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, with observance of States' digital sovereignty, encourages Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation, including open innovation mechanisms, and also recognizes the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to that end;

55. *Encourages* the promotion of digital solutions through access to and use and development of digital public goods, which may include open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards and open content that adhere to international and domestic laws, in unlocking the full potential of rapid technological change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizes that digital public goods empower societies and individuals to direct digital technologies to their development needs and can facilitate digital cooperation and investment;

56. *Recognizes* that resilient, safe, inclusive and interoperable digital public infrastructure has the potential to deliver services at scale and increase social and economic opportunities for all, that there are multiple models of digital public infrastructure, that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its specific priorities and needs, and that transparent, safe and secure digital systems and user-centred safeguards can promote public trust and use of digital services;

57. *Welcomes* the holding of the ninth annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, takes note of its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations,²⁰ looks forward to further advancement in the follow-up process, and welcomes the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the ninth annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

58. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in

²⁰ See [E/FFDF/2024/3](#).

vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

59. *Recognizes* the important role of information and communications technologies for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls upon all stakeholders in the information and communications technologies sector, including Governments and the United Nations system, to fully consider the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as they strengthen their efforts to bridge the digital divides within and between developed and developing countries, with particular attention to the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as women and girls, and to ensuring affordable and reliable connectivity, the promotion of digital access and digital inclusion, and the expansion of accessible and inclusive distance-learning solutions and digital health services;

60. *Notes* that, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2023/3](#) of 7 June 2023, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will submit after its twenty-eighth session, in April 2025, a report on the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society during the past 20 years, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly;

61. *Looks forward*, in accordance with its resolution [70/125](#), to its high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025, involving the input and participation of all stakeholders, including in the preparatory process, to take stock of progress on the outcomes of the World Summit and identify both areas of continued focus and challenges;

62. *Decides* to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda and paragraph 71 of General Assembly resolution [70/125](#), as early as possible, but no later than the end of March 2025, and invites the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;

63. *Recognizes* the immense potential of artificial intelligence systems to accelerate progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of finding pathways to leverage artificial intelligence to this end in an inclusive and equitable manner, in this regard acknowledges the need to govern artificial intelligence in the public interest and promote international cooperation to support developing countries in building and strengthening artificial intelligence capacities and readiness, as well as efforts to address potential negative impacts of emerging digital technologies on sustainable development, with the United Nations playing a central role in the international governance of artificial intelligence, welcomes the recommendations contained in the final report of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, particularly the proposals on artificial intelligence capacity-building, such as a Global Fund on Artificial Intelligence and an Artificial Intelligence Capacity Development Network, and the establishment of an Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence, and looks forward to the implementation of the commitments in the Global Digital Compact to enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity;

64. *Resolves* to bridge the artificial intelligence and other digital divides between and within countries, and to enhance international cooperation on capacity-building in developing countries to enable them to access, develop, use and govern artificial intelligence systems, including through North-South, South-South and

triangular cooperation, with full consideration of the needs, policies and priorities of developing countries, with the aim of harnessing the benefits of artificial intelligence, minimizing its risks, and accelerating innovation and progress towards the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals;

65. *Recognizes* that other emerging technologies, such as quantum technologies, have the potential to greatly increase computing capacity, allowing applications that can solve problems in a way that is not possible with current technologies, while also posing risks, and that it is necessary to encourage international cooperation in this field so that all countries can prepare for this new scenario;

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, an action-oriented report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society, the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals²¹ and other relevant processes, as part of his annual report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

67. *Invites* the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in 2025 to include an update on the midterm reviews of science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Co-Chairs' summary;

68. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

²¹ [E/HLPF/2024/7](#).