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Agenda item 26

Social development

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Robin **de Vogel** (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2024, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-ninth session, the item entitled:

“Social development:

“(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

“(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family;

“(c) Literacy for life: shaping future agendas”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion, considered proposals and took action on the item at its 1st to 4th, 47th, 49th, 50th and 56th meetings, on 3 and 4 October and 11, 13, 14 and 21 November 2024. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family ([A/79/61-E/2024/48](#));

¹ [A/C.3/79/SR.1](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.2](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.3](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.4](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.47](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.49](#), [A/C.3/79/SR.50](#) and [A/C.3/79/SR.56](#).



(b) Report of the Secretary-General on information and digital technologies for advancing social development: opportunities and challenges for improving social policies ([A/79/154](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on literacy for empowerment and transformation ([A/79/155](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing ([A/79/157](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([A/79/376](#));

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on future generations of older persons ([A/79/167](#)).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 3 October 2024, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development made an introductory statement.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, the Syrian Arab Republic, Cameroon and Egypt.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Egypt, Mongolia, Mali and Belgium.

7. Also at the 1st meeting, the Chief of United Nations System Affairs and the New York Office of United Nations Volunteers made an introductory statement.

8. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Argentina, Portugal, Chile (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons), Brazil, Mexico, Qatar, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Austria, Malta, Malaysia, the European Union, Cyprus, Peru, El Salvador, the United States of America, Egypt and Mali, as well as by the observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta.

9. At the 47th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.²

II. Consideration

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.13/Rev.1](#)

10. At the 56th meeting, on 21 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly” ([A/C.3/79/L.13/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Uganda (on behalf of the States Members of the

² See [A/C.3/79/SR.47](#).

United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China). Subsequently, Kazakhstan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. At the same meeting, Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

13. Also at the 56th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.13/Rev.1](#) (see para. 39, draft resolution I).

14. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Argentina, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Israel.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.8/Rev.1](#)

15. At the 47th meeting, on 11 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing” ([A/C.3/79/L.8/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Malta, Mexico, Portugal, Slovenia, Türkiye, Uganda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Armenia, Australia, Cyprus, Estonia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

16. At the same meeting, the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

17. Also at the 47th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.8/Rev.1](#) (see para. 39, draft resolution II).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina and the Russian Federation.

C. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.14/Rev.1](#)

19. At the 49th meeting, on 13 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Strengthening volunteerism for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind” ([A/C.3/79/L.14/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United States of America and Uzbekistan. Subsequently, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At the same meeting, Albania, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Malawi,

Monaco, Morocco, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Japan made a statement.

22. Also at the 49th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.14/Rev.1](#) (see para. 39, draft resolution III).

23. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Brazil.

D. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.9/Rev.1](#)

24. At the 50th meeting, on 14 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities” ([A/C.3/79/L.9/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Congo, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the same meeting, Albania, Azerbaijan, Barbados, the Central African Republic, Czechia, Côte d’Ivoire, Guyana, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mozambique, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, the Solomon Islands, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

26. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines, also on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, made a statement.

27. Also at the 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.9/Rev.1](#) (see para. 39, draft resolution IV).

28. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Egypt and Malaysia.

E. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.12/Rev.1](#)

29. At the 56th meeting, on 21 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024” ([A/C.3/79/L.12/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Uganda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Uzbekistan. Subsequently, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Türkiye joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

30. At the same meeting, Kyrgyzstan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
31. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.
32. Also at the 56th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.12/Rev.1](#) (see para. 39 draft resolution V).
33. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus and Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand). After adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America, Nigeria, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), Argentina and Libya, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

F. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.11](#)

34. At the 47th meeting, on 11 November 2024, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Literacy for life: shaping future agendas” ([A/C.3/79/L.11](#)), submitted by Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Mongolia, Nigeria and Paraguay. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
35. At the same meeting, Cameroon, Djibouti, the Gambia, Guyana, India, Kiribati, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Namibia, North Macedonia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Sudan, the Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
36. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia made a statement.
37. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.11](#) (see para. 39, draft resolution VI).
38. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

39. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, including resolution [78/174](#) of 19 December 2023,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,² as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Welcoming the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels, and expressing its deep concern that, more than 25 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain,

Welcoming also the adoption, in its entirety, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ in which it is recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Noting the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”⁴ to convene a world social summit in 2025, to be discussed and agreed upon by Member States, and emphasizing that the summit’s outcome should have a social development approach, including the need to place people at the centre of development and the pledge to make poverty eradication, full employment and social integration the overriding development objectives, and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling its resolution [78/261](#) of 26 February 2024, entitled “‘World Social Summit’ under the title ‘Second World Summit for Social Development’”, in which it decided to convene the “World Social Summit” in 2025, under the title “the Second

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² Resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

³ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁴ [A/75/982](#).

World Summit for Social Development”, to address the gaps and recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and its implementation and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming its resolution 78/318 of 16 July 2024, entitled “Modalities of the ‘World Social Summit’ under the title ‘the Second World Summit for Social Development’”, in which it decided that the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development” would be held at the level of Heads of State or Government in Qatar from 4 to 6 November 2025,

Welcoming the adoption of the political declaration of the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit,⁵ in which Heads of State and Government emphasized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Noting the Transforming Education Summit, convened and organized under the auspices of the Secretary-General in New York on 19 September 2022,

Welcoming the adoption of the political declaration of the General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, held in New York on 20 September 2023,⁶ the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 21 September 2023,⁷ the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis, held in New York on 22 September 2023,⁸ and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, held in New York on 26 September 2024,⁹

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, reducing inequalities within and among countries, creating greater opportunities for all, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and by raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable and inclusive social development and the sustainable management of natural resources,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recognizing also that social justice for all is the foundation for overcoming inequalities and advancing a people-centred approach to development and that social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing further the need for integrated, coordinated and coherent action in support of social justice, including by addressing inequalities and informality, fostering opportunities for productive employment through education, lifelong learning and training and skills development, extending social protection and promoting decent work and labour rights, and noting in this regard the convening of the World of Work Summit: Social Justice for All, held in Geneva on 14 and 15 June 2023, under the auspices of the 111th International Labour Conference,

⁵ Resolution 78/1, annex.

⁶ Resolution 78/3, annex.

⁷ Resolution 78/4, annex.

⁸ Resolution 78/5, annex.

⁹ Resolution 79/2, annex.

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission, given its mandates and experience in promoting people-centred inclusive development, will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Council in order to contribute to its work,¹⁰ including by offering inputs regarding the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a holistic and inclusive manner,

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission for Social Development will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work, and that the priority theme for the 2025 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be “Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council on the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions”,¹¹

Reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development¹² also informs the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant instruments, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹³ Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union, and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,¹⁴ and reaffirming also 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,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed, and noting in this regard that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of social protection and elimination of

¹⁰ Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/6, para. 3.

¹¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/79/3)*, chap. VI, sect. D.

¹² Resolution 41/128, annex.

¹³ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁴ A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

inequalities, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

Recognizing that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress and to leave no one behind,

Recognizing also the role that digital technologies can play in making social policies more inclusive, efficient and effective, and the need to establish and leverage synergies between digital transformation and sustainable development, to drive people-centred outcomes,

Stressing that bridging all digital divides is a precondition for achieving inclusive and sustainable development, including the goals of eradicating poverty and ending hunger, and the need to close all digital divides, which have been aggravated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, both between and within countries and including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills and awareness, as well as lifelong access to digital learning opportunities, and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the specific social, cultural and linguistic needs of each society and persons of all ages and backgrounds, as well as of those who are in vulnerable situations, particularly persons with disabilities, and noting the 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,

Recognizing that bridging all digital divides, between and within countries, requires strengthened international cooperation, to ensure, inter alia, universal and meaningful digital connectivity and affordable access in a safe, secure, transparent and non-discriminatory environment,

Emphasizing the need to ensure meaningful connectivity for all, in particular for people living in poverty, people living in rural and remote areas and people living in developing countries, to provide them with access to the benefits of information and communication technologies, promote technology sharing on a non-discriminatory basis and enhance the socioeconomic capacity of developing countries, and also to ensure that the use of information and communications technologies, including digital technologies, in the design and implementation of social policies does not result in increased inequalities that leave more people behind,

Recognizing the immense potential of artificial intelligence systems to accelerate progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of artificial intelligence, with the full and equal representation of all countries, especially developing countries, and the meaningful participation of all stakeholders,

Recalling the need to promote safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems that advance, protect and preserve linguistic and cultural diversity and that take into account multilingualism throughout the life cycle of these systems,

Acknowledging the importance of adopting science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies to help to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration, as well as the importance of scaling up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhancing technical, vocational and tertiary education, digital literacy, distance

education and training, and of ensuring equal access to and participation in such programmes for all, particularly women and girls,

Recognizing the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability, and the importance of improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty persist in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that the extent and manifestations thereof, such as hunger and malnutrition, vulnerability to trafficking in persons, forced and child labour, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are heightened in developing countries and particularly severe in least developed countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Stressing the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets,

Stressing also the importance of establishing a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and respect their territorial integrity and political independence, and refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Welcoming the fourth edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, held in Cairo in July 2024 under the theme “Africa in a changing world: re-envisioning global governance for peace and development”,

Recognizing that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, including reduction of inequalities, and that they further present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity,

Recognizing also that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,¹⁵ the World Programme of Action for Youth,¹⁶ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹⁷ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹⁸ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁹

Welcoming the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), which urges Member States to promote the social development of people of

¹⁵ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹⁶ Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁸ Resolution 61/295, annex.

¹⁹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

African descent, particularly women and girls, by eradicating any form of discrimination, ensuring access to quality education and eliminating challenges and specific risks with regard to health,

Reaffirming the commitment to promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social protection and social security, and noting the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Reaffirming also the efforts of Governments to achieve all health-related Sustainable Development Goal targets, in particular Goal 3 of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all throughout the life course, by integrating those aims into their national plans and policies, as well as the significant progress made in increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality and combating communicable diseases,

Recognizing that action to achieve universal health coverage by 2030 is inadequate and that the level of progress and investment to date is insufficient to meet target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the world has yet to fulfil its promise of implementing, at all levels, measures to address the health needs of all,

Recalling the outcome of the World Health Assembly held in May 2019, the agreement to accelerate and scale up action to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases, the agreement on a common approach to antimicrobial resistance, the adoption of a new global strategy on health, the environment and climate change, and the adoption by the Assembly of the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which went into effect on 1 January 2022,

Reaffirming the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda, including to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Noting with concern that, despite the progress achieved, at least half of the world's population lacks access to essential health services, more than 800 million people bear the burden of catastrophic spending of at least 10 per cent of their household income on healthcare and out-of-pocket expenses drive almost 100 million people into poverty each year,

Reaffirming education for sustainable development as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development, as outlined in the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development,²⁰ and as an integral element of the Sustainable Development Goal on quality education and a key enabler of all the other Goals, and welcoming the increased international recognition of education for sustainable development in quality education and lifelong learning,

Acknowledging the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognizing the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including through scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and by upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and increasing the percentage of qualified

²⁰ [A/70/228](#), annex.

teachers in developing countries, including through international cooperation, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States,

Reiterating the contribution of education to eradicating poverty in all forms and dimensions by providing people with knowledge and skills, which increases productivity and income and helps in reducing inequality within countries,

Recognizing the need to offer reskilling opportunities for workers in labour markets reshaped by digital technologies,

Welcoming the adoption of resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), 74/274 of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, and 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”,

Concerned that the COVID-19 crisis has contributed to the reversal of decades of progress in social development, leaving more people behind and that it has also had a negative impact on the abilities of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that at this critical moment in the decade of action to deliver the Goals by 2030 the visions, principles and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development remain valid and are central to addressing emerging global challenges, and recalling that social policies have a key role to play in addressing the immediate effects of crises,

Deeply concerned that, in the post-COVID-19 pandemic world, severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, continue to have a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to healthcare, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations and in countries in special situations and those countries most affected, have widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment and the number of people who have left the labour force and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women and girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations, and are making the prospect of achieving all Sustainable Development Goals more difficult, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

Noting with alarm that, despite improvements in many aspects of social development since 1995, including reductions in extreme poverty and food insecurity, as well as improved access to education and energy, progress has stagnated or reversed since 2020, owing to the multiple and widespread impacts of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change, and particularly concerned by the rise in extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, energy poverty, water scarcity, inequalities, education disruptions, violence against women and children, unemployment, barriers to access financial resources and to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, additional social and economic vulnerabilities affecting in particular those already in the most vulnerable situations, in addition to the increased challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and pollution,

Noting with concern that the digital divides, within and between countries, including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, negatively impact equal learning opportunities and limit access to quality education,

Stressing that the encouragement and development of international cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields serve the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, bearing in mind that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²¹
2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular to promote equality and social justice, eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all, and recognizes that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually reinforcing;
3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced, holistic and integrated manner;
4. *Recognizes* that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, and encourages Member States to develop comprehensive, integrated and coherent poverty eradication strategies that effectively address the structural causes of poverty and inequality with an emphasis on job-rich growth; address and meet the basic human needs of people living in poverty; ensure their access to quality education, nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing, electricity and other public social services, access to employment and decent work for all, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology and knowledge; and ensure their participation in decision-making on social and economic development policies and programmes in this regard;
5. *Expresses deep concern* that the global goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030 is slipping from the world's reach, and recognizes that the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated it, causing the extreme poverty rate to rise for the first time in a generation, increasing by 11 per cent in 2020, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and, inter alia, among women and girls and persons with disabilities;
6. *Stresses* the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, including extreme poverty, and achieve social development, so that no one is left behind, with enhanced international support and strengthened global partnerships, and notes the need for countries, the United Nations development system and all relevant stakeholders to ensure and promote a multidimensional coordinated approach in their work and efforts to eradicate poverty;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19

²¹ [A/79/154](#).

pandemic, including through poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and gender-responsive social protection programmes;

8. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,²² the 2005 World Summit, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in its Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,²³ the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the 2024 Summit of the Future, have reinforced the priority and urgency of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions within the United Nations development agenda;

9. *Recognizes* the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters, the lack of the necessary technology, and armed conflicts, and also recognizes that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity;

10. *Also recognizes* that investing in the capacities of women and girls is important in reducing poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and inequalities, as well as in achieving higher productivity and boosting social returns in terms of health, lower infant mortality and the well-being of their families;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting the African Union's development framework, Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, which is the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development²⁴ and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

12. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

13. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, quality education for all and healthcare, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of

²² *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²³ Resolution 63/239, annex.

²⁴ A/57/304, annex.

social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, noting the role of sports in this regard, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

14. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity and inclusion in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

15. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;

16. *Stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries, that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels and the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the reduction of inequalities, the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and for addressing the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, and in this regard also stresses the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

17. *Acknowledges* that inequalities persist within and among countries, posing significant challenges to social cohesion, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty, the promotion of prosperity, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality within and among countries are fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all, and that this requires collective and transformative efforts to leave no one behind and put the furthest behind first, and adapt institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of inequality and poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

18. *Urges* Member States to strengthen social policies, as appropriate, paying particular attention to the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized social groups, inter alia, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and other persons in vulnerable situations, as well as to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, and discrimination, including xenophobia, against them, to ensure that these groups are not left behind, and recognizes that violence increases the challenges faced by States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration;

19. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable

development and for efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, poverty and disease, to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners and to improving the access of women to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers and allocating adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including in the workplace, inter alia, by addressing wage inequality, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, reconciliation of work and private life for both men and women, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

20. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda;

21. *Reaffirms* the right to food and acknowledges the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture, and, recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing inequality in access to food and nutrition, calls upon Governments to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

22. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to establish nationally appropriate social protection that supports labour market participation and addresses and reduces inequality and social exclusion, and social protection systems and floors, including through streamlining fragmented social protection systems/programmes, ensuring that such programmes are gender-responsive and disability-sensitive, and progressively extend their coverage to all people throughout their life cycle, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization, upon request, to support government efforts to strengthen social protection strategies and policies on extending social protection and social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

23. *Stresses* the need to address challenges faced by those working in informal or vulnerable jobs, by investing in the creation of more decent work opportunities, including providing access to decent jobs in the formal sector in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy, and enhancing the productive capacities of people, and strengthen labour institutions and employment and labour-market policies, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country and by promoting close partnerships with relevant stakeholders;

24. *Urges* Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and

financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

25. *Also urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work and to increase the prospects for integrating youth into the sustainable labour market, and through increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

26. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

27. *Reaffirms* the New Urban Agenda,²⁵ which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods;

28. *Stresses* the importance of stepping up efforts to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including through enhanced international cooperation to assist developing countries to, inter alia, ensure access to electricity through increased financing and by promoting decentralized solutions for expanding access in rural areas, including mini-grids and stand-alone systems;

29. *Recognizes* that the negative effects of climate change and environmental disasters have differential impacts, with people in vulnerable situations, poor and rural communities and low-income countries being disproportionately exposed to

²⁵ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

floods, droughts and other natural disasters, and that they have a lower capacity and assets to recover from such external shocks, and expresses concern that climate change may cause high and volatile food and commodity prices and hit them hardest;

30. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws with regard to labour relations and working conditions of migrant workers, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

31. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations, the public sector and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors within countries are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the role of the public and private sectors as employers and enablers for the effective generation of new investments, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including through partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

32. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space and leadership of national Governments for implementing policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular in the areas of human rights, social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies, by, among other things, providing debt relief within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

33. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications, but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, applicable laws and international principles and standards, to operate transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

34. *Reaffirms* the necessity of improving availability, affordability and efficiency of health products by increasing transparency of prices of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies across the value chain, including through improved regulations and building constructive engagement and a stronger partnership with relevant stakeholders, including industries, the private sector and civil society, in accordance with national and regional legal frameworks and contexts, to address the global concern about the high prices of some health products, and in this regard encourages the World Health Organization to continue its efforts to biennially convene the Fair Pricing Forum with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss the affordability and transparency of prices and costs relating to health products;

35. *Recognizes* that health is an investment in human capital and social and economic development, towards the full realization of human potential, and significantly contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity as well as the empowerment of all people;

36. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment in the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage to achieve universal health coverage, which implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on those who are marginalized;

37. *Reaffirms* that achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, is essential to eradicate poverty, and reduce inequality and achieve sustainable development for all;

38. *Acknowledges* that expanding healthcare is a challenge, as well as that the rising cost of medications and health products is threatening the sustainability of health systems in many countries, and stresses the responsibility of States to ensure access for all, without discrimination of any kind, to medicines, in particular essential medicines, that are affordable, safe, effective and of quality;

39. *Expresses concern* at the estimated global shortfall of 10 million health workers by 2030, primarily in low- and middle income countries, recognizes the need to train, build and retain a skilled health workforce, including nurses, midwives and community health workers, who are an important element of strong and resilient health systems, and also recognizes that increased investment in a more effective and socially accountable health workforce can unleash significant socioeconomic gains and contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality;

40. *Calls upon* States, at the international level, to take steps, individually and/or through international cooperation, in accordance with applicable international law, including international agreements, to ensure that their actions as members of international organizations take into due account the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and that the application of international agreements is supportive of public health policies that promote broad access to safe, effective and affordable medicines;

41. *Encourages* all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

42. *Calls upon* Member States to make greater investments and promote decent work in the health and social sectors, enable safe working environments and conditions, effective retention and equitable and broad distribution of the health workforce, and strengthen capacities to optimize the existing health workforce, including through expanding rural and community-based health education and training to contribute to the achievement of universal health coverage;

43. *Encourages* Governments to end all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons;

44. *Welcomes* the rapid expansion in school enrolment worldwide, with literacy rates rising steadily over the past 50 years to reach 68 per cent in 2016, and the improvement in the access to early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education and throughout the life course, and calls upon the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society;

45. *Calls for* mitigating the effects of school closures and cuts in national education budgets, including on learning, child nutrition and all forms of violence, by, inter alia, safely reopening schools, providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, taking all possible actions to ensure qualified teachers and learners' re-enrolment and re-engagement, learning recovery and well-being through a non-discriminatory, accessible, integrated, multisectoral, child-sensitive and gender-responsive approach, and encourages the scaling-up of efforts for remedial, accelerated learning and catch-up strategies to mitigate learning losses, equipping children and adolescents with foundational skills, such as literacy and numeracy, and taking actions to ensure quality education and learning programmes beyond the schools for out-of-school children and youth and illiterate adults, particularly for the poorest and those in vulnerable situations;

46. *Recognizes* the limited access to and high rates of dropout from school and secondary education, the increased rates of exclusion from education with age and the existence of large disparities in school attendance and learning acquisition by region, wealth, sex, urban or rural residence and other factors such as Indigenous identity or disability, underscoring the challenges ahead, and also recognizes that poverty may affect access to quality education at the secondary and tertiary levels;

47. *Also recognizes* that factors such as poverty, residing in a rural area or having a disability all too often prevent children and adolescents from accessing quality education, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels;

48. *Encourages* all States to measure progress in the realization of the right to education, such as by developing national indicators as an important tool for the realization of the right to education and for policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency;

49. *Encourages* States to increase investments and international cooperation to allow all girls and boys to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including by scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and to explore additional innovative mechanisms based on models combining public and private resources, while ensuring that all education providers give due respect to the right to education;

50. *Urges* States to support the efforts of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to realize progressively the right to education, including the progressive realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl through appropriate resources, including financial and technical resources, in support of country-led national education plans;

51. *Reaffirms* the right to education, and calls upon the international community to provide universal access to inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – as well as to promote the completion of primary and secondary education so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills

needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

52. *Recognizes* that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education and vocational training and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

53. *Urges* Member States to promote and respect women's right to education throughout the life course at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, and eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promote financial literacy and inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship, ensure that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships and adopt positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

54. *Underlines* that the pandemic has accelerated the pace of digital transformation and accentuated its central role in recovering better and achieving the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with science, technology and innovation communities, academia, civil society, the private sector and intergovernmental institutions, including the United Nations, to close the digital divides, achieve universal, meaningful and affordable Internet connectivity and promote responsible and inclusive Internet governance;

55. *Urges* States to continue to take action to bridge the digital divides and spread the benefits of digitalization, expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, including by enhancing their digital infrastructure connectivity, building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and improving digital literacy, leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to strengthen social protection systems, build capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries, and reaffirms that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online;

56. *Urges* Member States to scale up international cooperation and financing for digital capacity development in developing countries in order to bridge all digital divides within and between countries and ensure that all States can safely and securely seize the benefits of digital technologies;

57. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to establish strong partnerships and increase investments in developing countries in order to close all digital divides, within and between countries, and promote digital inclusion by promoting universal and meaningful digital connectivity and addressing the challenges of coverage, affordability, awareness, relevance and digital skills, with a particular emphasis on connecting people living in poverty and bridging the gender digital divide;

58. *Recognizes* that advancing digital inclusion requires a predictable and transparent enabling environment that encompasses policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that support innovation, protect consumer rights, nurture digital talent and skills, promote fair competition and digital entrepreneurship, and enhance consumer confidence and trust in the digital economy;

59. *Urges* Member States, when considering whether to integrate information and communications technology, including digital technologies, into the design and

implementation of social policies, to consider the benefits, harms, acceptability, feasibility, use of resources and equity of the social policies, and to analyse the costs and benefits in relation to efficiency, effectiveness, inclusiveness, safety and security, and the impact on the environment;

60. *Encourages* Member States, in articulating a digital strategy for integrating information and communication technologies, including digital technologies, into the design and implementation of social policies, to ensure inclusivity, equality and social justice, to complement digital access to social programmes with non-digital means to ensure that no one is left behind, and to allocate adequate financing and sufficient resources for integrating information and digital technologies into social policies;

61. *Invites* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States in their pursuit of socially just transitions towards sustainable development and facilitate international cooperation in the field of digital technologies for developing countries, upon their request, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for the common future of present and coming generations, and close the digital divides which are exacerbating existing inequalities globally, especially during and after the pandemic, and stresses the commitment of Member States to reinvigorating and strengthening multilateralism to collectively address global challenges and to support countries in need in their efforts to enable an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery, including through mobilizing all means to strengthen their education, healthcare and social protection systems and mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change;

62. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed and middle-income countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

63. *Underlines* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes its increased importance, different history and particularities, and stresses that it should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

64. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and the most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources, and that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse the mobilization of additional resources from other public and private sources, and notes that official development assistance providers have reaffirmed their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

65. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of official development assistance since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official

development assistance to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the official development assistance targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

66. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

67. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, Unitaid, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitment for Vaccines;

68. *Emphasizes* that a coordinated global response is critical to assisting countries in preserving or increasing social protection systems, including by strengthening international solidarity, multilateralism, international cooperation and global partnerships among all stakeholders, in order to achieve the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development and the 2030 Agenda, while leaving no one behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

69. *Encourages* Governments to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all;

70. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

71. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, including their importance in safeguarding and increasing social spending to fully implement the 2030 Agenda, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve

sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

72. *Stresses* that the international community should support national commitments to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions with the goal to ensure that no one is left behind, and recognizes the need for greater international cooperation to further reduce inequality between and within countries and increase capacity-building support to countries with the most constrained resources to ensure that social expenditures meet certain targets;

73. *Reconfirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

74. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up to and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

75. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

76. *Further reaffirms* the mandate of the Commission for Social Development and that social development is a cross-cutting element in discussions surrounding the 2030 Agenda, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, civil society and relevant stakeholders to enhance their support for the high-level political forum on sustainable development as it builds upon the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission, while reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

77. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner, to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

78. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,²⁶ to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

²⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6 (E/2005/26)*, chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

79. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and invites the Commission to emphasize the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

80. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue engaging with Member States to sustain and further strengthen the political momentum on health-related issues, including the realization of universal health coverage and, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, including regional organizations, to strengthen existing initiatives that are led and coordinated by the World Health Organization to provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, towards the achievement of universal health coverage and all health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;

81. *Calls upon* the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels throughout the life course – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – so that all people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

82. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Social development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”, with a particular focus on policies and solutions to address gaps in the implementation of the social development goals as stated in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the General Assembly at that session.

Draft resolution II

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [57/167](#) of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,¹ its resolution [58/134](#) of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions [60/135](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/142](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/130](#) of 18 December 2007, [63/151](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/132](#) of 18 December 2009, [65/182](#) of 21 December 2010, [66/127](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/139](#) and [67/143](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/134](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/146](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/164](#) of 17 December 2015, [71/164](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/144](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/143](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/125](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/152](#) of 16 December 2020, [76/138](#) of 16 December 2021, [77/190](#) of 15 December 2022, [78/177](#) of 19 December 2023 and [78/324](#) of 13 August 2024,

Recognizing that there has been steady participation of Member States in the fourth review and appraisal cycle of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, although, in some parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²

Taking note also of other initiatives that the Secretary-General, United Nations agencies and United Nations entities have undertaken, and noting in this regard the importance of promoting equal access of older persons to social services, healthcare services, information and communications technologies, including new technologies, assistive technologies, full and productive employment and decent work, encouraging their effective and meaningful participation, protecting their human rights, combating ageism and all forms of violence against them, as well as obtaining data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁵ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁶ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁷ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁸ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁹

¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² [A/79/157](#).

³ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁴ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁵ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

Noting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families¹⁰ and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹¹

Noting also the regional developments on the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons, including the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting further that, between 2024 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 19 per cent, from 1.2 billion to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth and doubling the number of children under age 5,¹² and that this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions on ageing, specifically resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing,¹³ which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies, resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing,¹⁴ which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases and noted the importance of lifelong health-promotion and disease-prevention activities, and resolution 69.3 of 29 May 2016, entitled "Global strategy and action plan on ageing and 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life",¹⁵

Recalling also the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) in its resolution [75/131](#) of 14 December 2020,

Recalling further the World Summit on the Information Society and its outcomes,¹⁶ including its special track on information and communications technologies and older persons, as well as other relevant intergovernmentally agreed outcomes,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had a disproportionately heavy impact on older persons, in particular older women,

Recognizing also that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected older persons living in long-term care facilities, including those in the context of informal long-term care provision, and stressing the importance of providing personal protective equipment in long-term care facilities, securing emergency funding for such facilities, applying telemedicine and telehealth methods for mitigation purposes, and achieving universal health coverage, ensuring fair and equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics,

Acknowledging that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are confronting a double burden of fighting communicable diseases, such as

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹¹ Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

¹² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: 2024 Revision*.

¹³ See World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1.

¹⁴ See World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1.

¹⁵ See World Health Organization, document WHA69/2016/REC/1.

¹⁶ See [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in parallel with the increasing threat of non-communicable diseases, and expressing concern about the impact on older persons,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among them, particularly older single women,

Recognizing the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and recognizing also the importance of the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights,

Recognizing also the needs and contributions of older persons when addressing global challenges, inter alia, in climate action, disaster risk reduction, technology and innovation, and recognizing further the importance of intergenerational solidarity in sustainable development efforts,

Concerned about the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities for older persons and affect their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing that, in particular, older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from gender inequality and are at greater risk of physical and psychological abuse and violence,

Acknowledging the accelerated global trend of ageing of the population, which will require more care work and support, and stressing the need to promote and strengthen the estimation of the caregiving contribution and other activities of older persons to the economy, including recognition of unpaid care for family members, in particular by older women, and to ensure that national statistics in this regard inform policymaking,

Recognizing that the prevalence of disabilities increases with age and that many older persons live with a disability,

Recognizing also that ageism is a widely prevalent and prejudicial attitude that may rest on the assumption that neglect of, and discrimination against, older persons is acceptable, and that ageism is the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination,

Recognizing further that the social exclusion of older persons is a complex process involving the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services as people age, and the inability of older persons to participate in societal relationships and activities, including cultural activities, available to the majority of people across the varied and multiple domains of society, and that it affects both the quality of life of older persons and the equity and cohesion of an ageing society as a whole, with considerable implications for the enjoyment by older persons of their human rights,

Acknowledging the importance of exploring ways to increase the visibility of and attention to the specific challenges faced by older persons in the global development policy framework, including identifying possible gaps and how best to address them,

Deeply concerned by the increasing number and scale of humanitarian emergencies and their impact on older persons, particularly older women, reiterating the importance of giving due consideration to their specific needs, as well as their capacity to respond, and to the contributions of older persons to the planning and implementation of humanitarian assistance and efforts in disaster risk reduction, and

noting with concern that the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by older women can be exacerbated during humanitarian emergencies and aggravate their potential vulnerabilities,

Recognizing the successful conclusion of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, noting the results achieved at the international, regional and national levels, and acknowledging in that regard the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2023/15](#) of 7 June 2023,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

2. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards an age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the well-being of older persons, and in this regard encourages Member States to seize this opportunity to take into account issues of relevance to older persons in their efforts to promote the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* Member States to address the situation of older persons in their voluntary national reviews presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to accelerate their efforts to mainstream the linkages between population ageing and sustainable development into national policies and programmes across all levels of government, where appropriate, and to link ageing to frameworks for social and economic development and human rights;

5. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to take effective measures against ageism and to view older persons as active contributors to society and not as passive receivers of care and assistance and an impending burden on welfare systems and economies, while promoting and protecting their human rights;

7. *Encourages* Member States to intensify efforts towards identifying ageing as an opportunity, and recognizes that older persons make substantial contributions to sustainable development efforts, including through their active participation in society;

8. *Reaffirms* that older persons should be able to seek and develop opportunities for service to the community and to serve as volunteers, while recognizing that older persons can benefit from volunteering both as recipients and as providers and can significantly contribute thereto, and emphasizes that their active participation in those activities fosters their physical and mental well-being, helping older persons to maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life;

9. *Recognizes* the role of intergenerational relations in promoting social cohesion and influencing an individual's life course through the transfer of experiences, knowledge, values and traditions, and resources, through mutual support;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to promote intergenerational knowledge transfer in the workplace to harness the potential of different generations and better adapt to changes in labour markets;

11. *Acknowledges* that the opportunity for future generations to thrive in prosperity and achieve sustainable development must be ensured, including by eliminating the intergenerational transmission of poverty and hunger, inequality and injustice, and acknowledging the special challenges faced by developing countries;

12. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in different areas and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps, and calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by progressively taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, as well as social isolation and loneliness, to provide social protection, access to food and housing, healthcare services, employment, information and communications technologies, including new technologies, assistive technologies, legal capacity and access to justice and to address issues related to social integration and gender inequality through mainstreaming the rights of older persons into sustainable development strategies, urban policies and poverty reduction strategies, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the renewal of the mandate at the fifty-first session of the Human Rights Council;¹⁷

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert issued in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 51/4,¹⁸ and encourages Member States to be mindful of the recommendations contained therein;

15. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons;

16. *Encourages* Governments to actively address, through national, regional and international efforts, issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

17. *Encourages* Member States to create an enabling environment for the equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons in political, social, economic and cultural life, while taking into account the diversity of situation of older persons and responding to population ageing as well as to multiple forms of discrimination resulting from ageism and other inequality throughout the life course;

18. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies, legislation and regulations, to systematically review and amend these, where appropriate, if they discriminate against older persons, especially on the basis of age, and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons in, inter alia, employment, social protection and the provision of social, healthcare and long-term care services;

19. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, in accordance with their national priorities, equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, healthcare services and family planning, education, culture and information and communications

¹⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A*, (A/77/53/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A, resolution 51/4.

¹⁸ See A/79/167.

technologies, and to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of older persons, while recognizing that planning for and providing opportunities for making cities inclusive of older persons' economic and social participation is an important dimension of the construction of sustainable cities;

20. *Recognizes* that the risk of poverty increases with old age in several ways, and that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the financial security of older persons, including older widows, and in this regard calls upon Member States to enable people to reach old age in better economic conditions by, inter alia, addressing barriers in labour markets and inadequate social protection systems and combating elder abuse and neglect as well as the adverse impact of all forms of discrimination and inequalities experienced by older persons, especially older women;

21. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

22. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

23. *Encourages* Member States to consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including but not limited to strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age;

24. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement long-term care strategies, as well as to conduct research on good practices of care strategies, recognizing and supporting both paid and unpaid care work for the benefit of older persons, and to further promote long-term care as a positive social and economic investment and a source of employment expansion;

25. *Further encourages* Member States to promote terms and conditions of care work guided by International Labour Organization standards for all care workers, including but not limited to migrants, and to adopt measures to tackle the gender and age stereotypes for care work;

26. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacities to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by considering and devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

27. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and identify key priority areas for its implementation, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacities, as well as promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies and working with the regional commissions, as needed, and enlisting the help of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

28. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

29. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies that create national policy ownership and consensus-building;

30. *Recommends* that Governments be inclusive in involving older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them, including through simple consultative mechanisms to co-research or co-design such policies and programmes with or by older persons and to take due account of involving those who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are particularly vulnerable to high incidences of poverty and social exclusion;

31. *Encourages* Member States to involve older persons, where appropriate, in relevant international discussions, such as in the General Assembly and other processes held under the auspices of the United Nations, by considering incorporating them in their national delegations;

32. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons, recognizes that the data revolution presents new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard recalls the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data and the consideration of its work;

33. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices to identify and address existing deficits in data on ageing, to contribute to the effective follow-up on the implementation of international agreed commitments, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

34. *Encourages* States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, to address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedure mandate holders to pay due regard to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, particularly in their concluding observations and reports, respectively;

35. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

36. *Also recognizes* the crucial and evolving role played by families in contributing to the well-being of their members and communities at large, and encourages Member States to implement family-oriented and family-friendly policies that support them, including relevant social protection programmes;

37. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women and older persons with disabilities;

38. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

39. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

40. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive narratives of all older persons;

41. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to every country's determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

42. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to facilitate the development of robust health systems and universal health coverage, encompassing universal, timely, affordable and equitable access to all health technologies, diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and safe, quality and effective vaccines, especially during health emergencies, for all, in particular older persons, including those who are in vulnerable situations, especially older women and older persons with disabilities;

43. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop healthcare for older persons as part of primary care in the existing health systems;

44. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education, lifelong learning and capacity-building of the health workforce, including paid care workers and unpaid caregivers, for home-based care;

45. *Stresses* the need to close all digital divides, including, inter alia, both between and within countries, the rural-urban digital divide, the gender digital divide, and between youth and older persons, which can be experienced by older persons by providing universal and affordable access to and use of information and communications technologies, including new technologies and the meaningful use of digitally enabled services, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to people throughout their life course without discrimination based on age or other forms of discrimination, and welcomes efforts by the United Nations to assist Member States, upon their request, in achieving this;

46. *Encourages* Member States to promote digital literacy with a special focus on enhancing digital skills and competencies of older persons without discrimination of any kind, including socioeconomic status, education level, race and/or ethnicity, gender and disability as well as language barriers, by taking into account national and regional contexts;

47. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health and other policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

48. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, healthcare services and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

49. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents are deceased, have migrated, have been displaced, including in the context of humanitarian emergencies, or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

50. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being of and adequate healthcare services for older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, in particular older women, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

51. *Urges* Member States to increase the resilience of older persons and ensure that they are able to achieve and maintain financial security during emergencies, through, inter alia, addressing the digital gap that currently affects many older persons and protecting them from violence and abuse in digital contexts; strengthening legal and social protection and adopting adequate employment measures; providing better care and support services, promoting long-term care and support at home, in the community and in institutional settings, with a view to ensuring their empowerment, as well as their autonomy and independence; adopting a people-centred, gender-sensitive comprehensive and integrated approach, with full respect for human rights, to healthcare to improve the well-being of older persons, including mental healthcare, non-communicable disease management and adult immunization efforts; and developing national vaccination plans that give priority to older persons and are guided by principles of equality and social justice;

52. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures, in accordance with national circumstances and, as appropriate, international humanitarian law, to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of older persons, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹⁹ by, inter alia, including older persons in disaster risk reduction and national and local emergency planning and response frameworks, collecting and using data disaggregated by age, sex and disability for policy design and implementation, as well as carrying out risk and vulnerabilities analyses of older women in humanitarian emergencies with a view to minimizing the risk to older women of all forms of violence in such emergencies;

53. *Encourages* Member States to integrate lessons learned from the pandemic with regard to older persons in order to combat ageism, protect the human rights of older persons and strengthen existing policies and laws to address all forms of discrimination in all areas of their life, as well as to take concrete measures that integrate age- and gender-responsive preparedness plans into relevant policy areas at the national and international levels and ensure that older persons and their

¹⁹ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

representatives are consulted in planning and decision-making processes that affect them, on an equal basis with others, in order to address their specific needs;

54. *Encourages* national and local governments to improve access to affordable housing, particularly for older persons, through integrated housing policies and social protection measures, and to provide a range of support services that promote their dignity, autonomy and independence, including by addressing legal and policy barriers to equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing for them;

55. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure access to justice for older persons, whose right to adequate housing may have been violated due to discrimination based on age;

56. *Encourages* Member States to adopt measures to tackle homelessness and to protect older persons from arbitrary forced eviction, as well as to take all appropriate measures to ensure that adequate alternative housing or relocation is available, especially in situations of emergencies;

57. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in particular North-South cooperation, which is complemented by South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

58. *Encourages* Member States to establish or to strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, as well as in relation to increased life expectancy, with particular attention to promoting good health and addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive healthcare coverage for older persons;

59. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

60. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

61. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda²⁰ and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better

²⁰ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

understanding of how to promote ageing in a way that is not adversely affected by rapid urbanization and gentrification;

62. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, through the regional commissions and regional initiatives, as well as the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

63. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, a network of United Nations entities that exchange information and integrate ageing into their work programmes on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

64. *Requests* the focal point on ageing of the United Nations system, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to enhance its collaboration with the focal points of the regional commissions, funds and programmes, and recommends that Member States reaffirm the roles of focal points within the United Nations system, increase technical cooperation efforts, consider expanding the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote ageing issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

65. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations trust fund for ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

66. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

67. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work and to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, including gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women;

68. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, among others, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to include in reports to their respective governing bodies relevant information on efforts made by Member States and the international community on issues of relevance to older persons, including their social inclusion;

69. *Decides* to formally conclude the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in its resolution [65/182](#), and

notes with appreciation the completed work of the Working Group, in view of the adoption by the Working Group of its decision 14/1,²¹ and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as national human rights institutions, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter and invited panellists, during the 14 working sessions of the Working Group;

70. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its eightieth session under the agenda item entitled “Social development”;

71. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

²¹ [A/AC.278/2024/2](#), para. 28.

Draft resolution III

Strengthening volunteerism for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [76/131](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers”,

Recognizing the universal desire of people to contribute through volunteering and the importance of ensuring the safety and security of volunteers through adequate insurance, as well as physical and mental health support,

Recognizing also that young persons play a major role in volunteering worldwide, and in that regard reaffirming the importance of involving youth and both youth-led and youth-focused organizations in all matters of concern to them, including within the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences,

Welcoming the participation of persons with disabilities, including as on-site and online United Nations Volunteers, and the progress made towards the mainstreaming of disability inclusion and ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities in volunteerism, and noting the importance of removing barriers to ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in volunteerism,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ creates an unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by and between Governments, communities, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

Welcoming the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular 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, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries, as well as resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it recognizes volunteerism as a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, noting the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and acknowledging the important role of civil society in facilitating volunteering,

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

² Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

Acknowledging also that, as volunteering practices evolve, including online and digital volunteering, there is a need to understand how they shape the participation of volunteers and to leave no one behind by facilitating access, and stressing in this regard the need to close all digital divides, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills and awareness and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations,

Recalling its resolution [78/127](#) of 18 December 2023, entitled “International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, 2026”, in which it proclaimed 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ which aims for all human beings to fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment and notes the progress made by stakeholders under the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Recalls* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;
3. *Recognizes* the critical contributions of volunteers in this regard, and commends the contributions from national and international volunteers for their indispensable interaction with local populations in disaster risk reduction and recovery, most recently evidenced by their performance in the aftermath of natural disasters, including those aggravated by climate change in many parts of the world;
4. *Commends* the increasing link between volunteerism and sport, which, through the invaluable contributions of national and international volunteers to the preparation and delivery of major sports events, inter alia, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, contributes to the promotion of the ideal of peace and inclusive society;
5. *Also commends* the measurement of the scale and scope of volunteering on a national level and the integration of volunteerism into national youth policies and strategies, disaster preparedness and response strategies, as well as national development plans, and encourages Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks or equivalent planning frameworks;
6. *Encourages* Member States to support volunteer action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the integration of volunteerism into sector priorities and national development strategies, plans and policies, and to invest in volunteers and volunteering as part of national capacities to promote inclusion, strengthen participation and foster innovation and to strengthen evidence on the quality of participation through volunteering under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with other stakeholders;

³ [A/79/376](#).

7. *Encourages* the meaningful participation and integration of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, into volunteer-involving programmes and projects, with the provision of the appropriate means to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

8. *Encourages* Member States to promote an intergenerational and life-course approach to volunteering in order to mobilize and support volunteers in all phases of life;

9. *Recognizes* the significant contribution of older persons to volunteerism, emphasizes that active participation in social activities through volunteering fosters both their physical and mental well-being, helping them to maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life, and encourages Member States to foster opportunities for older volunteers, including in later life phases or during retirement, thereby facilitating active ageing and lifelong learning;

10. *Also recognizes* the importance of creating new opportunities for young people to volunteer, reiterates that volunteerism is an important factor that enables them to develop the relevant skills and to build their capacities, ensuring that their participation in volunteer work contributes to their successful transition to employment and decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people have access to such opportunities;

11. *Commends* the Member States that highlighted the contributions of volunteering to the Sustainable Development Goals in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development held annually from 2016 to 2024, and encourages all Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer-involving and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, in supporting such efforts and promoting a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results, to include information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in future voluntary national reviews and engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Goals at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider people's engagement;

12. *Encourages* Member States to implement policies that support the participation of women in volunteering activities by addressing existing barriers and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and by enabling the balancing of education, employment, volunteer work and their participation in all other aspects of life;

13. *Encourages* all Member States to invest in measuring the scale and contribution of people's voluntary efforts, in line with the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians standard on volunteer work and the International Labour Organization *Volunteer Work Measurement Guide*, and to collect and utilize high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to support and integrate volunteerism into national strategies and to measure its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

14. *Requests* United Nations entities, as well as United Nations country teams, to reflect the distinct contributions of volunteering in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and country programme documents, in line with resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

15. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations, including from civil society, to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon

States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

16. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Volunteers programme in supporting the integration of volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by sharing relevant knowledge and experiences, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to share their continued efforts to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda through the global Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism hosted by the United Nations Volunteers programme, including policies, strategies, research and evidence and good practices on volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Also recognizes* the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers as the resource enabling the United Nations Volunteers programme to develop initiatives that embed the values of volunteerism in the work of Governments and the United Nations system, and encourages Member States in a position to do so to enhance their contributions to the Fund, thereby ensuring continuing activities;

18. *Further recognizes* the role of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support online volunteering, including United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms;

19. *Encourages* Member States and development partners to continue to share knowledge and scale up ways to address barriers to volunteering for all, including persons in vulnerable situations;

20. *Encourages* Member States to engage all relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, 2026;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

Draft resolution IV

Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [77/189](#) of 15 December 2022 and its previous relevant resolutions, including those on all relevant internationally agreed development goals, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, and stressing the need for their full application and implementation for and with persons with disabilities, in order to ensure development for and with persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹ which it adopted on 13 December 2006 and which entered into force on 3 May 2008, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, recognizing that it is both a human rights and a development instrument, encouraging its ratification by Member States and its implementation by States parties, and taking note of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,²

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Welcoming the commitments made in the Pact for the Future⁴ to take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no one behind, to enhance inclusion and eliminate all barriers that hinder persons with disabilities,

Recalling all development and operational frameworks in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,⁵ the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,⁷ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁸ the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,⁹ the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, launched during the first World Humanitarian Summit, the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),¹⁰ the political declaration of the high-level meeting on

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

³ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁴ Resolution [79/1](#).

⁵ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

⁷ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁸ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁹ Resolution [69/2](#).

¹⁰ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

universal health coverage, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,¹¹ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹² and the Beijing Platform for Action,¹³ the outcome document of the 2016 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030”,¹⁴ and the adoption of the 2021 political declaration on HIV and AIDS, entitled “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030”,¹⁵ which contain references to the rights, participation, perspectives and well-being of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Recalling further the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁶ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁷ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁸ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,¹⁹ the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families²⁰ and all other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as stakeholders in its work, as set out in resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 78/285 of 7 June 2024,

Noting the panel discussion organized by the President of the General Assembly held on 13 June 2016 to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and development and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Looking forward to the publication of the *Disability and Development Report 2024: Accelerating the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities*, the executive summary of which presents an overview of the progress of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities, and the persistent gaps between persons with disabilities and without disabilities, particularly in the spheres of food security, health, access to energy, access to information and communications technology, multidimensional poverty and employment – gaps that are wider for women with disabilities, Indigenous persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas – and proposes recommended actions for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the disability-inclusive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 16 per cent of the world’s population, or 1.3 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live

¹¹ Resolution 74/2.

¹² *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹⁴ Resolution 70/266, annex.

¹⁵ Resolution 75/284, annex.

¹⁶ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* vol. 660, No. 9464.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

in developing countries, and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poverty,

Welcoming progress towards mainstreaming disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in the work of the United Nations, and noting with appreciation the contributions of the Steering Committee on Accessibility and of the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and the leadership of the Secretary-General to bring about transformative and systematic change on disability inclusion across the United Nations system,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, including women, children, youth, persons with albinism, Indigenous Peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable and marginalized in society and are at a greater risk of experiencing all forms of violence, and recognizing the need for national development strategies and efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, the elimination of all forms of violence and the realization of their human rights,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, while recognizing also the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of such measures and decision-making processes related thereto, as well as empowering them to publicly lead and promote universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing further the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand, respond to and overcome the effects of armed conflict and natural disasters,

Recognizing also that children with disabilities may be particularly exposed and vulnerable to violence and discrimination that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, including cyberbullying, cyberstalking, sexual exploitation and abuse, which disproportionately impacts girls with disabilities, and that there is a need to take steps to ensure that the digital environment, including safety information, protective strategies, services and forums relating to it, is accessible, inclusive and safe,

Recognizing further the contribution of families towards ensuring the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and that persons with disabilities and their families should receive social protection and assistance to enable the family and its members to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities and to ensure a safe and supportive family environment for persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality, non-discrimination and equity at the global level, and in this sense stressing the duty of Member States to achieve the full

application and implementation of the international normative framework on persons with disabilities and human rights and development,

Concerned that access to healthcare services and assistive devices and technologies remains a challenge for persons with disabilities, who are more than three times as likely as persons without disabilities to be unable to obtain healthcare when they need it, especially women and girls with disabilities, owing to, inter alia, a lack of financial resources, inaccessible public transport and facilities and attitudinal and other environmental barriers,

Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recognizing the importance of addressing the specific needs, challenges and barriers of migrants with disabilities, including migrant workers with disabilities and those whose disabilities may have been acquired during migration, in gaining access to essential services at all stages of the migration cycle, and recognizing also that particular assistance and protection may be needed by migrants with disabilities,

Recognizing also that eliminating discrimination, ensuring equal access to social protection floors and safety nets, addressing additional disability-related costs in the design of social protection schemes, and enhancing responsive support and services to persons with disabilities are critical to promoting inclusive development for all,

Recognizing further that, while considerable progress has been made, the mainstreaming of disabilities, including the rights of persons with disabilities, remains a global challenge, and recognizing that further efforts are needed to strengthen the normative and operational links to effectively integrate the rights, inclusion, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities into development policies and programmes, and, in particular, into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Noting the need for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further strengthen the normative framework on disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the pledge of “leaving no one behind” of the 2030 Agenda, and to mainstream disability as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development and consider disability as a global issue, cutting across the pillars of the United Nations,

Stressing its resolve to build inclusive societies and, in this regard, the importance of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities into all relevant strategies and programmes for sustainable development, and reaffirming the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities,

Recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to full, meaningful and effective participation and inclusion in society, and therefore recognizing also that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be actively involved in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, sports, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others, including in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, including national and international development programmes, as well as policies and actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, with a view to ensuring that such policies and programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, bearing in mind that the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities of present and future generations in society is critical to ensuring that no one is left behind,

Recognizing also the role and contribution of persons with disabilities in sustainable and inclusive economic growth, including through micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the importance of skills development training on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including for persons with disabilities,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development plans, strategies and actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, including digital literacy, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence and reach their full potential,

Recognizing the importance of promoting accessibility, mobility and road safety for persons with disabilities in the context of cities and other human settlements, and that accessibility is a means of achieving inclusive societies and development,

Recognizing also the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace, and stressing that major international sporting events, such as the international Paralympic Games, should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship and tolerance, where persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities, on an equal basis with others, and where the spirit of fair play prevails, violence is banned and ethical principles are upheld,

Concerned that the continuing lack of available, accessible, high-quality, timely and reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving sustainable development planning and implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of persons with disabilities, recognizing that high-quality, timely, accessible, reliable and disaggregated data are critical to measuring progress and ensuring that no one is left behind, and further noting the need for enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of such data, including through information and communications technologies and systems,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics,²¹ and their updates, encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with disabilities by sex, age and disability, and underlining the need for internationally comparable data, such as but not limited to the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the tools and materials produced by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Concerned that the lack of high-quality data required to provide viable baselines and measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with

²¹ Such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.15) and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).

disabilities poses a significant challenge to effectively monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities, and in this regard welcoming the call for the disaggregation of data by disability in the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to measure progress in the implementation of the Goals for persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled “Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities”, on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [77/189](#);²²

2. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities to submit information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution [26/20](#) of 27 June 2014,²³ in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their roles as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes that their participation is integral to the full and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have drafted strategies outlining their way forward in implementing and monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda or are in the process of doing so, and encourages States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of these strategies and ensure that the strategies are inclusive of persons with disabilities and respect, protect and promote their rights, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

6. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of non-discrimination, accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in cooperation with women and girls with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes to fulfil the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is inclusive of and accessible to women and girls with disabilities;

8. *Also urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in cooperation with persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities, including through developing, reviewing

²² [A/79/372](#).

²³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/69/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

and strengthening inclusive policies to address the historical, structural and underlying causes and risk factors of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

9. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children with disabilities;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to foster cooperation and to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda and to facilitate cross-learning and the sharing of information, practices, tools and resources that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

11. *Reaffirms* that social integration and economic policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education, lifelong learning opportunities for all and healthcare services, including for mental health and psychosocial well-being, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation, and integration and inclusion of social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

12. *Affirms* that persons with disabilities, including children, have the right to education, and urges Member States to ensure full access to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, including distance learning, for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others and without discrimination, by taking appropriate steps through the provision of information in accessible and alternative communication formats, reasonable accommodation and other support, such as assistive devices and technologies, as required;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities into disaster risk reduction and response, recognizing the need for their inclusion in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, and also recognizing the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls with disabilities;

14. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to support the empowerment, full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of persons with disabilities in the planning, consultation and decision-making processes on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other climate change policies and programmes, and recognizing the heightened risks and disproportionate impact faced by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, pollution and other environmental damage;

15. *Also encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to ensure participation of persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the strengthening of ongoing efforts, coordination and decision-making processes in the humanitarian, disaster and development spheres towards disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action, especially those relating to the development of early warning systems and in emergency preparedness, planning and, as appropriate, response, and in climate change adaptation, so as to strengthen resilience,

better mitigate risks and support pathways towards recovery and development and to establish partnerships and networks in the disaster risk reduction and humanitarian domains, while ensuring that protection mechanisms in emergency and post-crisis contexts are in place to prevent and respond to risks of persons with disabilities being exposed to violence, exploitation and abuse;

16. *Urges* Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families, including women and girls, have access to a range of support services, information in accessible formats and education, including on how to prevent, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse, as well as how to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular children, have a safe and supportive family environment;

17. *Also urges* Member States to ensure affordable and accessible Internet for persons with disabilities, and to include them and their representative organizations at every stage of development of information and communications technologies, including with regard to telehealth, distance learning and remote work;

18. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the media, academia and research institutions and technical communities and individuals to strengthen international cooperation on the use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence capacity-building, and take necessary and positive steps, as appropriate, to eliminate barriers faced by all people, especially persons with disabilities, in their ability to utilize and benefit from digital technologies on an equitable basis with others;

19. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, into development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

20. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and the regional commissions, to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

21. *Encourages* the Commission for Social Development, within its mandate, to continue to provide its relevant input regarding persons with disabilities to the Economic and Social Council and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as appropriate, in order to support the relevant discussions on persons with disabilities in the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda;

22. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

23. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to take into account the rights, participation, inclusion, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in ensuring that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding

poverty eradication, discrimination and the elimination of all forms of violence and abuse, particularly against women and girls with disabilities, social protection, inclusive and equitable quality education and basic services, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion, as well as urban and rural planning and accessible community and housing development, including the objectives and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the goals of the 2030 Agenda, are translated into concrete actions;

24. *Encourages* Member States, international development institutions and other stakeholders, including those in the private sector, to promote accessibility, including through the application of universal design in all aspects of urban and rural development, including the planning, design and construction of physical and virtual environments, public spaces, transportation and public services, as well as to promote access to and the accessibility of information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems, and assistive devices and technologies, and to ensure that accessibility is promoted to achieve inclusive societies and development;

25. *Encourages* Member States to eliminate barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene, including physical, institutional, social and attitudinal barriers, and recognizing that assistive technologies help in making water, sanitation and hygiene accessible;

26. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders to include persons with disabilities in all stages of policymaking and decision-making related to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response and recovery and future and public health emergencies, as well to eliminate barriers and discrimination against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and those in vulnerable situations, in accessing support and healthcare services on an equal basis with others, and to prevent, monitor and address the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on persons with disabilities, including the lack of accessible communications, support and services, as well as the unique challenges and barriers that they will face following the end of the pandemic;

27. *Urges* Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to assistive technologies, rehabilitation and independent living support services, including in-home, residential, educational institution and other community support services, to enable them to maximize their well-being and realize their independence and full participation in society and to prevent isolation and segregation from the community, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in designing and implementing independent living support services for persons with disabilities;

28. *Urges* Member States and regional and local governments to promote appropriate measures in cities and other human settlements that facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment of cities, in particular to public spaces, public transport, housing, workplaces, water and sanitation, education and health facilities, public information and communication (including information and communications technologies and systems) and other facilities and services open or provided to the public in both rural and urban areas to reduce the inequalities and expedite inclusive and sustainable development for persons with disabilities;

29. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance efforts to facilitate international trade of assistive technologies, in line with their international trade agreements, to address inequalities experienced by persons with disabilities and to promote the local production of and capacity-building initiatives for assistive products, especially in developing countries, including through research and development, and to foster

greater accessibility to, as well as affordability and efficacy of assistive products in line with the goals of disability-inclusive development;

30. *Urges* Member States, at the local, regional and national levels, to improve road safety for persons with disabilities and to integrate road safety into sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure planning and design in cities and other human settlements;

31. *Stresses* the importance of enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities and of promoting sports for athletes with disabilities, without discrimination of any kind;

32. *Welcomes* the contributions made to the trust fund for the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in this regard encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

33. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing international guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

34. *Encourages* the Statistical Commission, within existing resources, to update guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and also encourages the United Nations system, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system in order to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

35. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics, including by collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and disability status using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the tools produced by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, by examining underlying concepts, purposes and advantages of existing relevant data-collection tools and instruments and urging all relevant stakeholders to work with the United Nations to provide urgently needed baseline data for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities, to strengthen national capacities in that regard and to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States;

36. *Recognizes* the importance of undertaking discussions relevant to persons with disabilities in the Commission for Social Development and of the continued inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the meetings of the Commission;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with relevant United Nations entities, to compile and analyse international, regional and national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding persons with disabilities, reflecting progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to submit this analysis in a flagship report in 2030, within existing resources, and with the participation of persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in both the collection and analysis of data;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a progress report on steps taken by the United Nations system towards mainstreaming disability inclusion, including implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, within existing resources, and to envisage the financial sustainability of the United Nations system-wide coordination and monitoring activities of the Strategy, and encourages the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of disability inclusion, including by implementing the Strategy in the United Nations system, and report on it;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities, to submit information to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,²⁴ and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

40. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to improve accessibility and the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, and information and communications technologies and systems, especially at United Nations Headquarters premises, also recognizes the need to promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities to work within the United Nations system, agencies, funds and programmes and regional offices, and to this end takes note with appreciation the work of the Steering Committee on Accessibility;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the relevant offices in the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and other relevant offices, have adequate human and financial resources for the fulfilment of their tasks with respect to their work in mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities into the 2030 Agenda, and in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the decision-making processes that impact them.

²⁴ Resolution 68/3.

Draft resolution V

Observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [44/82](#) of 8 December 1989, [50/142](#) of 21 December 1995, [52/81](#) of 12 December 1997, [54/124](#) of 17 December 1999, [56/113](#) of 19 December 2001, [57/164](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/15](#) of 3 December 2003, [59/111](#) of 6 December 2004, [59/147](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/133](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/129](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/133](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/126](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/142](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/136](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/144](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/163](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/145](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/144](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/124](#) of 18 December 2019, [75/153](#) of 16 December 2020, [76/139](#) of 16 December 2021, [77/191](#) of 15 December 2022 and [78/176](#) of 19 December 2023, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth, twentieth and thirtieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the observance of and follow-up to the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 provide a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, especially those relating to family-oriented policies in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, with attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can contribute to ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensuring better education outcomes for children, including early childhood development and education, enabling access to employment opportunities and decent work for parents and caregivers, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence, in particular against women and girls, and supporting the overall quality of life of families, including families in vulnerable situations, so that family members can realize their full potential, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Acknowledging that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-oriented components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Acknowledging also that the International Year and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, including family-oriented policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages, and can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹

Expressing concern over the continuous socioeconomic impacts of pandemics and other health emergencies on families, and recognizing the need to build more

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-sensitive systems to protect and support families, in particular those families in vulnerable situations, inter alia, by providing access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive and resilient social protection systems and public services, including accessible and affordable childcare, and measures to ensure work-family and work-life balance, while also acknowledging that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and while also stressing the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household,

Acknowledging that strengthening intergenerational relations, through such measures as promoting intergenerational living arrangements and encouraging extended family members to live in close proximity to each other, has been found to promote the autonomy, security and well-being of children and older persons and that initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and to support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations, as well as in promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members,

Reaffirming that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personalities, should grow up in a healthy family environment, that their best interests shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for their nurture and protection and that families' and caregivers' capacities to provide the child with care and a safe environment should be promoted, and underscoring the importance of social protection in promoting and strengthening the capacities of parents, caregivers and legal guardians to care for their children,

Acknowledging that the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 has provided an opportunity to focus on megatrends, such as technological change, urbanization, migration, demographic change and climate change and their impact on families and their well-being,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;²
2. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger, to prevent the intergenerational transfer and feminization of poverty and ensure the well-being of all at all ages in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to give due consideration to advancing family-friendly and family-oriented policy development for the full benefit of future generations;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders, to offer support to family members, including working parents, and provide access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-responsive social protection systems and public services, including accessible and affordable childcare, expanded child and family benefits, paid parental leave and sick leave, improved flexibility of working arrangements and investments in parenting education;

² A/79/61-E/2024/48.

5. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders to promote the preparations for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 at the national, regional and international levels through practical initiatives, including family-oriented policies and programmes responding to the needs of all families;

6. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to support research and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and international levels on the impact of technological, urbanization, migration, demographic and climate change trends on families;

7. *Encourages* Member States, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to integrate a family-oriented approach into relevant policymaking;

8. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, within the area of technological change and its impact on families, to bridge the digital divide, including between developed and developing countries, as well as the gender digital divide, to enable equal access to risk-informed information, knowledge and communications, by taking concrete measures to promote equal access for all to digital training, capacity-building, through equal access to information and communications technologies, mobile devices and the Internet, so as to promote their empowerment and digital literacy, and to improve access to the Internet, higher-speed Internet and digital devices for families, especially those in vulnerable situations, invest in the digital literacy skills of all family members, invest in parenting education, including through the use of technology, as a valuable preventive strategy against cyberbullying and violence against children in digital contexts and for reducing child neglect, and support the healthy development of children, as part of child-focused policies and as a component of wider family-oriented policies and programmes;

9. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to promote work-family balance in the digital world, grant workers with family responsibilities flexibility in work schedules to enable them to meet the needs of work and family and invest in reliable technology support and education;

10. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, within the area of urbanization and its impact on families, to invest in sustainable urbanization, including through the provision of adequate infrastructure, accessible transportation, affordable housing and intergenerational living arrangements;

11. *Invites* Member States to further invest in services for families, social service centres and transportation, to benefit families and prevent family homelessness and address its causes, including poverty, domestic violence and the lack of affordable housing, and to build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination;

12. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to incorporate into urban planning a wide range of stakeholders, including low-income households, female-headed households, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, those living in poverty, including extreme poverty, and those in vulnerable situations, and to promote planned and well-managed urbanization through effective coordination between local and state governments and long-term public-private financial partnerships;

13. *Invites* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote reunification policies under national law related to migration, with the best interest of the child as the basic concern, while also taking into consideration the overall well-being of the family;

14. *Encourages* Member States to promote social protection systems for all, in line with national policies, and to target families in vulnerable situations, such as migrant families, those in precarious housing situations, those living in conflict zones or areas susceptible to natural disasters induced by climate change, Indigenous families and families with a member with disabilities;

15. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders to invest in awareness-raising and media campaigns to disseminate information on the availability of housing, employment, educational opportunities and social services for families and their members;

16. *Encourages* Member States to integrate and maintain a gender perspective in family-related policies, in particular in the context of migration and homelessness;

17. *Recognizes* that family policies are most effective when addressing the family unit and its dynamic as a whole, including taking into consideration the needs of its members, and notes that family-oriented policies aim in particular at strengthening, and should be designed to enhance, a household's capacity to escape poverty, ensure financial independence and support work-family balance to help to manage family functions and foster child development;

18. *Invites* Member States to enact family-oriented policies in response to demographic changes affecting families, and increase investments in this regard in order to ensure universal health coverage and access to inclusive, equitable and quality education, including in rural and remote areas, as well as to undertake efforts to promote healthy early childhood development and to eliminate harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, through legal, social, economic and educational measures, and by working at the community level to eliminate negative social norms and attitudes, including through public awareness campaigns on the negative consequences of those practices, and reducing maternal mortality, and to promote the empowerment of women and girls in overall family policymaking;

19. *Encourages* Member States to develop and strengthen family-oriented and family-friendly policies and programmes for the well-being of family members and to take measures to significantly reduce maternal, perinatal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality healthcare for newborns, infants and children, as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, including through providing antenatal and postnatal care, sufficient numbers of skilled birth attendants and adequately supplied birthing facilities;

20. *Invites* Member States to strengthen public policies, including family-oriented policies, by investing in social security, as well as in social protection systems, pensions systems and care systems for all, and in informal and formal caregiver support;

21. *Also invites* Member States to take a multigenerational, life-course approach to public policy, including inclusive social policies, recognizing the contributions of all generations to society and strengthening intergenerational solidarity, and expand evidence-based research on demographic trends and their impact on families in order to develop appropriate family-oriented policies, as well as policies aimed at ensuring healthy early childhood development;

22. *Further invites* Member States to invest in a variety of inclusive, family-oriented gender-sensitive policies and programmes, which take into account the

different needs and expectations of all families, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

23. *Encourages* Member States to continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies for poverty reduction to confront family poverty and social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender- and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected;

24. *Also encourages* Member States to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, particularly by women, and enhance efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through the improvement of working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and use of such opportunities, for their children's developmental benefit and as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market;

25. *Further encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality childcare facilities and facilities for children and other dependants and measures promoting the equal sharing of household responsibilities between women and men, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in this regard;

26. *Encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes that enhance strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements, parenting education, including for family caregivers, and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary caregivers, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization, active ageing, intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion;

27. *Also encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes and to provide universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, as can be the case of families headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and healthcare services, in addition to family services and counselling;

28. *Further encourages* Member States to provide legal identity including birth registration, in accordance with international law, including relevant provisions

of the Convention on the Rights of the Child³ and/or relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ and death registration, as a means of, inter alia, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and access to benefits, including social protection;

29. *Encourages* Member States to invest in parenting education as a tool to enhance children's well-being and prevent all forms of violence against children, including through promoting non-violent forms of discipline, and to ensure that parenting education programmes are inclusive of parents, grandparents and, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the children, maintaining a gender perspective throughout;

30. *Also encourages* Member States to implement family-friendly and family-oriented policies that support the social and economic development of children and young people so that they can reach their full potential and enjoy their human rights;

31. *Further encourages* Member States to establish policies that support all families in providing a nurturing environment, and in preventing and eliminating domestic violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;

32. *Encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of data, disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria, for the formulation and evaluation of family-oriented policies and programmes to effectively respond to the challenges faced by families and harness their contribution to development;

33. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations trust fund on family activities;

34. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector, in the development and implementation of relevant family-oriented policies and programmes;

35. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, including the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

36. *Requests* the focal point on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to enhance collaboration with the regional commissions, funds and programmes, recommends that the roles of focal points within the United Nations system be reaffirmed, and invites Member States to increase technical cooperation efforts, consider enhancing the role of the regional commissions on family issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on family issues and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to promote family issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

37. *Calls upon* Member States and agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to provide information on their activities, including on good practices at the national,

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁴ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

regional and international levels, including the relevant United Nations forums, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, including the preparations for its thirtieth anniversary, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

38. *Encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to organize and participate in events as a follow-up to the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

39. *Takes note* of the convening of the Doha conference commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, on the theme “Family and contemporary megatrends”, hosted by Qatar and organized by the Doha International Family Institute, held from 29 to 31 October 2024;

40. *Recognizes* the importance of the World Social Summit, to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2025, under the title “The Second World Summit for Social Development”, to address existing gaps and reaffirm the commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action,⁵ and its implementation and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution and on the follow-up to the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year and beyond;

42. *Decides* to consider the topic “Follow-up to the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond” at its eightieth session under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

⁵ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Draft resolution VI

Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [56/116](#) of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution [57/166](#) of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,¹ and its resolutions [59/149](#) of 20 December 2004, [61/140](#) of 19 December 2006, [63/154](#) of 18 December 2008, [65/183](#) of 21 December 2010, [68/132](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/141](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/166](#) of 19 December 2016, [73/145](#) of 17 December 2018, [75/155](#) of 16 December 2020 and [77/192](#) of 15 December 2022,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² which includes Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, with a specific target on ensuring that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential knowledge, skills and competencies that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century, and to promote inclusive and equitable societies,

Reaffirming the right of Indigenous Peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for Indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,³

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, an estimated 754 million adults,⁴ two thirds of them women, lack basic literacy skills, and that 70 per cent of 10-year-old children in low- and middle-income countries are not able to read and understand a simple text, and that 244 million children, adolescents and youth worldwide (or one in five) were out of school in 2023 – a figure that has barely changed over the past decade,

Stressing the importance of recovering from a learning loss and addressing negative impacts, including on learners' socioemotional skills, as a consequence of the coronavirus disease (COVID 19) pandemic, in particular girls, who are among those disproportionately lacking access to education,

Recognizing that literacy is an integral part of lifelong learning as a continuum of proficiency in reading, writing and numeracy that is developed throughout life and across different life and work contexts,

Recognizing also that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education in order to enable millions of people to acquire literacy skills for decent work,

¹ See [A/57/218](#) and [A/57/218/Corr.1](#).

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

⁴ See [A/77/187](#).

Recognizing further the critical role of teachers and educators in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning, and the importance of strengthening their capacities, skills and competencies, including digital skills, by providing training, support, materials and technological infrastructure, as well as the challenges faced by teachers and educators in online and digital learning, while ensuring their status and working conditions, as appropriate, and reiterating the commitment to substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, by 2030, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries,

Recognizing that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable development, and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

Reaffirming the need to ensure equal access to inclusive and equitable quality education, including digital literacy, in order to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world, and in this regard stressing that information and communications technologies and applications can create new ways to enhance education, including early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities, while recognizing the need to close all digital divides and promote digital inclusion by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, connectivity, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills and awareness, and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations,

Deeply concerned that the disproportionate impacts of the unprecedented global school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated pre-existing inequalities between and within countries and between and within educational systems in access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, and that the impact of the pandemic on equal learning opportunity is further exacerbated by the digital divides between those who had the means to continue education remotely and those who did not, as well as the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides,

Recalling the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Taking note of the 2024 Global Education Meeting, held on 31 October and 1 November 2024 in Fortaleza, Brazil, and its "Fortaleza Declaration",

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recalling the importance of continuing to implement national and subnational programmes and measures to advance literacy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum,⁵ and achieve literacy consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 4, and in this regard

⁵ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

recognizing the important contribution of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Recalling the commitment to substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Literacy for empowerment and transformation";⁶

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting enjoyment of the right to education, including by making progress on the five strategic axes of action for the period following the Decade;

3. *Calls upon* Governments at all levels, as appropriate, to scale up literacy, including digital literacy programmes for all boys and girls, youth and adults, including older persons, with particular attention to those in vulnerable situations, to foster inclusive and innovative delivery of literacy services, including through further harnessing the innovative and transformative potential of digital technology and a strengthened institutional network, to promote an intersectoral approach by linking literacy learning with multiple sectors to address diverse learning needs, such as through relevant and inclusive educational resources in different languages, to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships with the active participation of civil society and the private sector, to encourage the integration of literacy learning into vocational education and training, to mobilize resources to strengthen literacy measurements and statistics, and to invest in education management information systems and data management capacities according to every State's financial and human capabilities;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to increase investment in inclusive and equitable quality education for all, early childhood care and education, youth and adult literacy programmes or initiatives and skills enhancement, and promote opportunities for lifelong learning, technical and vocational training and digital literacy, allowing for the intergenerational acquisition and transfer of knowledge and skills to advance the prospects of future generations;

5. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector to sustain their collective efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate

⁶ A/79/155.

environments and to contribute to the implementation of the Strategies (2020–2025) of the Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning, as well as the development of new strategies for synergistic action at the global, regional, national and community levels;

6. *Recalls* the adoption by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of its Strategy for Youth and Adult Literacy (2020–2025) and its action plan;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Marrakech Framework for Action at the seventh International Conference on Adult Education, held from 15 to 17 June 2022, stressing the transformative power of adult learning and education for sustainable development and lifelong learning;

8. *Urges* international development partners and Governments to cooperate in order to strive to ensure that sufficient and sustainable funds continue to be mobilized, including to address or mitigate the effects driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, by and channelled through new and existing international financing mechanisms for education and that they also explicitly target and benefit youth and adult literacy;

9. *Takes note* of the Transforming Education Summit, convened by the Secretary-General from 16 to 19 September 2022, as well as its Pre-Summit, hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 28 to 30 June 2022, as well as the stocktake of transformative actions in education, hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris on 17 June 2024;

10. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, takes note of its function to support ongoing efforts towards the mobilization of financial and technical support and investment to promote and upscale quality and inclusive education and training, skills development, capacity-building and bridging the digital divides, in tandem with job creation, for youth and creating an enabling environment for harnessing their talents and abilities to contribute to their societies, and in this regard recognizes its potential positive contribution towards ensuring youth and adult literacy;⁷

11. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate in strengthening the capacities of school directors, teachers and educators to ensure literacy, including through the development of intercultural and digital skills and competencies among them, as well as of the capacities to develop relevant pedagogical methods in literacy;

12. *Calls upon* States, and invites other relevant stakeholders, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve all literacy-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to work with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to take steps to close the digital divides, including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides and those within and between developed and developing countries, and promote digital inclusion by addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills, ensuring that the benefits of new technologies, particularly on literacy, are available to all, including those living in rural and remote areas, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations, and providing distance learning opportunities, especially in developing countries;

⁷ Resolution [76/306](#), para. 3 (i).

14. *Urges* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to take measures to ensure the proper training of teachers and other educational professionals in digital literacy and the availability of and access to learning materials and remote learning platforms to close all digital divides, including by removing barriers such as poor access to connectivity, the lack of affordability of connection and devices, limited digital skills and the absence of locally relevant digital content, in order to provide distance learning opportunities, inter alia, Internet, television and radio teaching alternatives, especially in developing countries;

15. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, to continue its mandated role to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 agenda, in particular through the renewed global education cooperation mechanism, including the strengthened Sustainable Development Goal 4 Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee,⁸ as an inclusive global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Agenda in accordance with the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role through the implementation of its Strategy for Youth and Adult Literacy (2020–2025) and the strategy of the Global Alliance for Literacy and by continuing to provide support to Member States, in collaboration with partners, in enhancing capacities for policy formulation, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as sharing information and knowledge on policies, programmes and progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets connected with literacy, especially target 4.1 on reading skills in primary and lower secondary school (including in Indigenous languages) and target 4.6 on youth and adult literacy, and creating synergies of action between the Alliance and other initiatives, including its Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education and Global Network of Learning Cities;

17. *Encourages* efforts to provide quality education in safe learning environments for all, especially for boys, girls and youth, in humanitarian emergencies to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".

⁸ See [A/77/187](#).