



**United Nations**

# **Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

**Report on the twenty-eighth session  
(7–11 April 2025)**

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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### *Summary*

A summary of the discussions at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, its programme, documentation and the list of speakers are available on the web page of the session at <https://unctad.org/meeting/commission-science-and-technology-development-28th-session>.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions and five draft decisions.

Further information on the work of the Commission and its membership is available at <https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development>.

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## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

#### A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

##### **Draft resolution I**

##### **Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

*Recalling further* its resolution 2024/13 of 23 July 2024 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> and assessed progress made to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 79/1 of 22 September 2024, in which the Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future which includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, and 79/194 of 19 December 2024 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, in which the Assembly recognized the important role of information and communications technologies for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc\\_res\\_2024d14\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2024d14_en.pdf) 78/160 of 19 December 2023 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, 78/265 of 21 March 2024 on seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development and 78/311 of 1 July 2024 on enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence, and emphasizing the need to

<sup>1</sup> See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

uphold these commitments in areas of vulnerability and persistent low level of digital development that hinder safe and equitable access to information and communications technologies and their use for sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the importance of integrating the implementation of the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture in order to avoid duplications and ensure a cohesive and consistent approach to digital cooperation,

*Taking note* of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled “The age of digital interdependence”, and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”,<sup>3</sup>

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the 20-year review thereof,<sup>4</sup>

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for her role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

### **Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society**

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution [70/125](#);

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and diverse inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders in the overall review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015;

4. *Reaffirms* the overarching World Summit vision to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society as the foundation for aligning the World Summit system and implementation of the Global Digital Compact,<sup>5</sup> contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Also reaffirms* the 2005 Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,<sup>6</sup> in which was recognized the special and specific funding needs of the developing world, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the 2003 Geneva Declaration of Principles,<sup>7</sup> which faces numerous challenges in the information and communications technology sector, and that there is a strong need to focus on the special financing needs of developing countries in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the fulfilment of official development assistance commitments;

6. *Further reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution [70/125](#) to bridging the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, access to information and knowledge, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy,

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<sup>3</sup> [A/74/821](#).

<sup>4</sup> [A/80/62-E/2025/12](#).

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution [79/1](#), annex I.

<sup>6</sup> See [A/60/687](#).

<sup>7</sup> See [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex.



acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and those in vulnerable situations;

7. *Welcomes* the emphasis placed by the Commission on the Status of Women on the critical role of women's participation and leadership in science, technology and innovation;

8. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>8</sup> as called for in General Assembly resolution 70/125, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, recognizing the World Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals matrix developed by United Nations World Summit action line facilitators to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

9. *Reaffirms* its understanding that the success of the 2030 Agenda will depend on increasing universal, meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technology;

10. *Recognizes* that the World Summit has proven to be a dynamic process that has evolved over the years and is continuing to address the impacts of new and emerging technologies, as well as digital cooperation;

11. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technology infrastructure is fundamental to achieving the goal of digital inclusion and that digital divides persist across income groups, age groups, geography and gender groups, and therefore recalls its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, target 9.c, which aims to significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strives to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development;

12. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

13. *Notes with concern* that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, acknowledges that a gender digital divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of girls and women in vulnerable situations in the information society and women's and girls' access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development, including by combating technology-facilitated gender-based violence, such as exploitation, harassment and abuse against women and girls;

14. *Encourages* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue to give due consideration to the impact and challenges of key rapid

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<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

technological changes and the opportunities to utilize these technological changes to deliver the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the respective mandates and existing resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/150](#) of 14 December 2022;

15. *Acknowledges* that, in its resolution [77/150](#), the General Assembly recognized the critical importance of expanding the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, and further noted that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development could explore the connection between data and sustainable development, including data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data, and invites the Commission to explore these issues;

16. *Welcomes* the holding of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated annually on 3 May, proclaimed by the General Assembly and led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

17. *Also welcomes* the global conference to commemorate the International Day for Universal Access to Information, hosted by the Government of Ghana and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 1 and 2 October 2024, which served as a platform to assess progress made in promoting access to information since the adoption of the United Nations sustainable development agenda;

18. *Further welcomes* the holding of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, celebrated annually on 17 May and led by the International Telecommunication Union;

19. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions, regional World Summit review initiatives and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

20. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

21. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

22. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and

obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

23. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of encouraging collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders, including international organizations, exchanging information among action line facilitators and other stakeholders, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process;

24. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives and best practices in the database;

25. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit into the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component, for which the United Nations Group on the Information Society has offered its assistance;

26. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution [60/252](#) of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit;

27. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution [70/125](#), the General Assembly called for continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Council, and reaffirms the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

28. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

29. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband Internet has further accelerated during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, so that in 2024, 96 per cent of the world's population were living within range of a mobile broadband network and 5.5 billion people or 68 per cent of the world's population were using the Internet, in line with the World Summit targets; the value of this progress is enhanced by the advent of new electronic and mobile services and applications for health, agriculture, education, business, development, financial and government services, civic participation and transactional services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

30. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack universal, meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes

the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, data management, and promote digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

31. *Underlines* that efforts to promote access to information and communications technology, digital, media and information literacy, civic participation and online safety are important to bridge digital divides and ensure digital inclusion and the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development;

32. *Expresses concern* that many forms of digital divides remain between and within countries and regions, and underlines the need for digital, media and information literacy as well as the need to address prevailing challenges to bridge digital divides, including through international cooperation and education, striving to ensure that individuals, especially persons in vulnerable situations, are able to connect to and access the Internet in a safe, secure and meaningful way so as to enable their full economic, political and social participation in an inclusive information society;

33. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies in an inclusive manner, such as sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and landlocked countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

34. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

35. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment and emerging digital platforms and services is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

36. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

37. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is steadily increasing and that, in some instances, the digital divide and the knowledge divide are also changing in character, from a divide based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive therefrom, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

38. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the vital importance of multilingualism and local content but also the integrity of information in the information society, and urges

all stakeholders to encourage the creation of, and access to, educational, cultural and scientific content online so as to promote meaningful access and ensure that all people and cultures can express themselves and have access to the Internet in all languages, including Indigenous languages in the context of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032);

39. *Recognizes* the importance of human capacity-building, including in artificial intelligence, an enabling environment and resilient information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, and assistance to countries in their efforts to strengthen the enabling role of information and communications technology for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

40. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from e-commerce, through the eTrade for All initiative, which provides a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance for building capacity in e-commerce readiness and by enabling donors to have a clear picture of the programmes to fund;

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

42. *Takes note* of the *Digital Economy Report 2024* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which highlighted the urgent need for sustainable strategies throughout the life cycle of digitalization and called for global policies involving all stakeholders to enable a more circular digital economy and reduced environmental footprints from digitalization, while ensuring inclusive development outcomes;

43. *Recalls* the holding of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, in Geneva from 6 to 8 May 2024, and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development eWeek, from 4 to 8 December 2023;

44. *Takes note* of the latest global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2024: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Universal Connectivity*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for affordable and reliable broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

45. *Recalls* the launching of the Broadband Advocacy Targets by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to support “connecting the other half” and to help to bring online the 2.6 billion of the world’s people who are not connected to the Internet;

46. *Recognizes* that the digital economy and emerging technologies have enormous potential for social good, the implementation of World Summit outcomes and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

47. *Also recognizes* the existing artificial intelligence and other digital divides between and within developed and developing countries in terms of conditions, possibilities and capacities and the need to narrow these disparities;

48. *Welcomes* the many initiatives of United Nations organizations that support the implementation of the World Summit action lines, and encourages all action line facilitators to continue to work towards implementation of the action lines;

49. *Also welcomes* the work of the Information for All Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which aims to assist Member States in formulating policies to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable knowledge societies, and further welcomes the holding of Global Media and Information Literacy Week, from 24 to 31 October each year;

50. *Further welcomes*, in this regard, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted on 23 November 2021,<sup>9</sup> and General Assembly resolution [78/265](#);

51. *Notes* the significant developments in the information society with the emergence in the public sphere of artificial intelligence, which significantly advances the pace and scale with which artificial intelligence is expected to have an impact on many aspects of human societies, and also acknowledges concerns about the potential negative impacts on employment, labour, the environment, human rights and information integrity;

52. *Takes note* of the final report of the High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, entitled *Governing Artificial Intelligence for Humanity*, issued in September 2024;

53. *Notes* that the International Telecommunication Union has established partnerships with 40 other United Nations entities to convene the Artificial Intelligence for Good platform, including its summits and the launch of the International Telecommunication Union Artificial Intelligence Repository to identify responsible and practical applications of artificial intelligence to advance the Sustainable Development Goals;

54. *Recognizes* the work of the International Telecommunication Union, including, in particular, the holding of its Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest from 26 September to 14 October 2022, at which the membership reaffirmed its commitment to the common vision of a connected world;

55. *Recalls* the holding of the sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Policy Forum, organized by the International Telecommunication Union from 16 to 18 December 2021;

56. *Also recalls* the holding of the World Radiocommunication Conference, convened by the International Telecommunication Union in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 November to 15 December 2023;

57. *Further recalls* the holding of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, convened by the International Telecommunication Union in New Delhi from 15 to 24 October 2024, and the holding of the Global Standards Symposium, convened in New Delhi on 14 October 2024 by the International Telecommunication Union;

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<sup>9</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Forty-first Session, Paris, 9–24 November 2021*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, annex VII.

58. *Recalls* the holding of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Kigali from 6 to 16 June 2022;

59. *Also recalls* the holding of the nineteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium in Geneva on 23 and 24 September 2024 on the theme “Metrics to action: bridging data gaps for universal and meaningful connectivity”;

60. *Recognizes* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to promote digital inclusion and data and digital infrastructure in Africa and other regions to support poverty reduction, agricultural productivity and food security;

61. *Also recognizes* the work of the International Labour Organization on the impact on jobs caused by technological change, in particular the impact on women and persons in vulnerable situations;

62. *Further recognizes* the work of the Global Observatory for eHealth of the World Health Organization, including its consideration of how m-health, telehealth, electronic health records and e-learning can contribute to the goals of universal health coverage;

63. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Development Programme, including the publication of its Digital Strategy, which is aimed at applying the potential of digital technology to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterates the importance of the United Nations Development Programme continuing to focus on such assistance and digital capacity development for countries, in particular developing countries, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations agencies;

64. *Also recognizes* the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including its publication of the *Digital Initiatives for Indigenous Languages* toolkit, which illustrates how Internet and other digital tools can be utilized to conserve, revive and promote Indigenous languages, as well as other minority languages;

65. *Further recognizes* the work of the Internet Governance Forum, including the development of its youth, national and regional initiatives, that support multi-stakeholder discussions on digital public policy;

66. *Recalls* the publication of the Secretary-General’s strategy on new technologies on how the United Nations system will support the use of new technologies to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to facilitate their alignment with the values enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the norms and standards of international law;

67. *Reiterates* the commitment to harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accordingly urges all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests United Nations system entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

68. *Notes with great concern* the persistence of the gender digital divide on a global level – as 65 per cent of women and girls are now using the Internet compared with 70 per cent of men – and that women remain digitally marginalized in many of the world's poorest countries, draws attention to the gender digital divide, which persists in women's and girls' access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, calls upon Member States and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to adopt all needed measures, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education, as well as their participation in information and communications technologies, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders, and by addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence;

69. *Notes* the many initiatives targeted at closing the gender digital divide, including, among others, International Girls in ICT Day (International Telecommunication Union), the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age (the EQUALS initiative), the EQUALS in Tech Awards (International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), the eTrade for Women Network (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Women on the Homepage (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Global Survey on Gender and Media (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Broadband Commission Working Group on Broadband and Gender, the Best Practice Forum on Gender and Access of the Internet Governance Forum, the work being done in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum on gender issues and the work of the World Bank in a number of countries promoting opportunities for women and girls in information and communications technologies, as well as the work of many other stakeholders on this issue;

70. *Reaffirms* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution [70/125](#);

71. *Notes with appreciation* the special initiatives and tracks launched under the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, in particular the Multi-stakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, the World Health Organization and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and in alignment with the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing, and the Youth Campaigns;

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

73. *Acknowledges* the 1,014 pledges in the International Telecommunication Union Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (also known as P2C), which aims to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally with a focus on developing countries, including landlocked developing countries and small island



developing States, aligned with World Summit action lines and the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

75. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating and adapting to climate change, disaster response, social networking, cultural and linguistic diversity, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, community networks, the gender digital divide, cyber, the protection of privacy and freedom of expression as defined in articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>10</sup> and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

76. *Reaffirms* that, in the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually,<sup>11</sup> and recognizes the value of the Forum in enhancing cooperation, partnership, innovation and the exchange of experiences and good practices by all stakeholders in information and communications technologies for sustainable development;

77. *Notes* the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum High-level Event 2024, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union and jointly organized by the Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, from 27 to 31 May 2024, and looks forward to the holding of the WSIS+20 High-level Event 2025 in Geneva, from 7 to 11 July 2025, and the open consultation process, which aims to ensure wide participation in and broad ownership of the Forum;

78. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action<sup>12</sup> as the framework for identifying practical measures to use information and communications technologies to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda, noting the World Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals matrix, developed by United Nations agencies;

79. *Encourages* World Summit action line facilitators to ensure close alignment with the 2030 Agenda when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources;

80. *Reiterates* the importance of the call by the General Assembly for all stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and its request to United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

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<sup>10</sup> See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>11</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/125](#).

<sup>12</sup> See [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex.

81. *Encourages* active participation of entrepreneurs in the World Summit process and the Sustainable Development Goals, as called for in General Assembly resolution [77/160](#);

#### **Internet governance**

82. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

83. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda;

84. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 55 to 65 of General Assembly resolution [70/125](#);

#### **Enhanced cooperation**

85. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues;

86. *Recalls* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/125](#), to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and also notes that the Working Group ensured the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

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

88. *Further recalls* the report of the Chair of the Working Group,<sup>13</sup> which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

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

#### **Internet Governance Forum**

90. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

91. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution [70/125](#), to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further 10 years, during

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<sup>13</sup> See E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3.

which time the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

92. *Recognizes* that over 176 national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

93. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution [70/125](#), in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;<sup>14</sup>

94. *Notes* the holding of the nineteenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, organized in Riyadh from 15 to 19 December 2024, under the theme “Building our multi-stakeholder digital future”, which welcomed over 9,000 participants;

95. *Looks forward* to the holding of the twentieth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be organized in Lillestrøm, Norway, from 23 to 27 June 2025, and the continued implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum that are applicable for its preparatory process;

96. *Welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums and policy networks, as well as the contributions of national and regional Internet governance forums, the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group and the Leadership Panel;

97. *Notes*, in that context, the establishment of the Leadership Panel of the Internet Governance Forum, as a step in implementing the Internet Governance Forum Plus proposal presented in the report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation;

### **The road ahead**

98. *Recalls* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and calls upon United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

99. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging all digital divides, particularly in relation to ethnicity, gender and age, and fostering digital inclusion, in their different forms, including skills and connectivity, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications in order to reach those in vulnerable situations, including access to reliable and affordable broadband at the grass-roots level, including through participative and community-centred connectivity models, in accordance with national regulatory frameworks, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries towards building information and knowledge societies;

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<sup>14</sup> [A/67/65-E/2012/48](#) and [A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1](#).

100. *Recognizes* the importance of expanding participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in digital transformation to harness the benefits and effectively participate in the development, deployment and use of emerging technologies, including safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems, and the importance for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider the impact and challenges of rapid technological changes and frontier technologies on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

101. *Welcomes* the holding of the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in Geneva from 12 to 14 May 2025, focused on making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development;

102. *Invites* all stakeholders to take an active part in the WSIS+20 High-level Event 2025 in Geneva, including the multi-stakeholder consultations on achievements, key trends, challenges and opportunities on World Summit action lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

103. *Also invites* all stakeholders to take an active part in the twentieth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in Lillestrøm;

104. *Acknowledges* the challenges remaining for the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, also acknowledges the challenges remaining for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and invites all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of World Summit action lines to fulfil the objectives defined in the 10-year review process and advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

105. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal, meaningful and affordable access to broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divides, including the gender digital divide;

106. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to promote an enabling policy environment for investment and to foster public-private cooperation and partnership for sustainable investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, applications and services, content and digital skills, with the aim of ensuring the meaningful connectivity needed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals;

107. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

108. *Recognizes* that, in line with paragraph 5 above, financing of information and communications technologies for development needs to be placed in the context of the growing importance of the role of information and communications technologies, not only as a medium of communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

109. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on

Financing for Development,<sup>15</sup> with special attention to the needs of developing countries;

110. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators in open data format as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, emphasizes the importance of the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators, and stresses the value of gender-disaggregated data to contribute to the bridging of the gender digital divide;

111. *Calls upon* all countries to encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities, women, persons with disabilities, older persons and youth, ethnic minorities and Indigenous Peoples, and to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

112. *Acknowledges* the importance of digital measurement and monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

113. *Encourages* the development and implementation of robust legal frameworks, policies and data protection and accountability measures to foster privacy by design across technologies and services, and highlights the importance of enabling cross-border data flows and data free flow with trust, while respecting applicable legal frameworks in this context, and reaffirming the role of data for development;

114. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to promote digital literacy and awareness-raising efforts to empower individuals, especially those in vulnerable situations, to understand and exercise their data protection and privacy rights, make informed choices about their personal data and take appropriate steps to safeguard their online security and privacy;

115. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at all levels, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

116. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) Encourages Member States to develop and put in place data infrastructure at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(b) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

(c) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the *Measuring*

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<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

*Digital Development* series, which provides information on recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

(d) Encourages the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to continue the follow-up on the relevant decisions of the Statistical Commission on information and communications technology statistics for the purposes of producing high-quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

117. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to this fund;

118. *Looks forward* to the General Assembly high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held in New York in December 2025, welcomes the road map outlining the contributions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the overall review, and encourages willing Member States to provide financial or other support for its implementation;

119. *Appreciates* the effective coordination among all United Nations agencies, including the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, involved in the joint preparatory process for the World Summit 20-year review, which facilitated the identification of milestones leading to the World Summit 20-year overall review;

120. *Takes note with appreciation* of the two road maps developed by the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards their preparation for the World Summit 20-year review;

121. *Recalls* paragraph 116 of Economic and Social Council resolution [2024/13](#), in which the Council requested the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to collect inputs from member States, all facilitators and other stakeholders and to organize, during its twenty-eighth session, in 2025, substantive discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the past 20 years, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly;

122. *Notes* the substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held from 7 to 11 April 2025, and the concluded work of the Commission of collecting inputs from all facilitators and stakeholders as part of the preparations for its 20-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit;

123. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-eighth session,<sup>16</sup> including a summary of the substantive discussion on the 20-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and decides to forward it to the preparatory process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

124. *Also takes note* of the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development entitled “Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Twenty-Year Review”, which was the basis for the substantive discussion, and decides to also submit it to the preparatory process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly as an input for its deliberations;

125. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to undertake and present, ahead of the World Summit 20-year review and based on the World Summit process and 2030 Agenda-Global Digital Compact matrix developed by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, a stocktaking of current practices and experiences in integrating digital cooperation frameworks, including World Summit action lines, Sustainable Development Goals principles, the Global Digital Compact and road maps in the context of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting opportunities and challenges, to provide insights that can inform further deliberations;

126. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related discussion of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-eighth session, and acknowledges the role of the Commission as the focal point for the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

127. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divides, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

128. *Calls for* continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda;

129. *Looks forward* to continuing consultations and engagements towards the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, building on the World Summit on Information Society architecture, including the World Summit 20-year review, and underlines the importance of ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication within the United Nations system and across various entities, building on established mechanisms and maximizing global digital cooperation;

130. *Takes note with appreciation* of the World Summit process and 2030 Agenda-Global Digital Compact matrix prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which maps the Global Digital Compact objectives to existing World Summit structures, mechanisms and activities, offering a structured approach for effective follow-up and implementation of the Compact;

131. *Recommends* that, as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review, the Global Digital Compact commitments be integrated, as appropriate, by the corresponding facilitators into the work of the World Summit action lines;

132. *Highlights* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society in coordinating the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and recommends, as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review, strengthening

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<sup>16</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 11 (E/2025/31).*

its functioning by including further United Nations offices with responsibilities in matters of digital cooperation, as well as multi-stakeholder advice on its work, as appropriate;

133. *Recommends* further that, as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review, the United Nations Group on the Information Society be tasked with developing a joint implementation road map, to be presented to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-ninth session, to integrate the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture, ensuring a unified approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes resource efficiency;

134. *Highlights*, in this regard, the well-established role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as an intergovernmental platform for discussions on the impact and opportunities of technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for a strengthening of the Commission as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review;

135. *Emphasizes* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the follow-up and review process of the Global Digital Compact and the need for ensuring the strongest possible convergence between the implementation of the World Summit outcomes and the Compact to avoid duplication and enhance synergies, efficiencies and thereby impact;

136. *Stresses* the need for an ongoing open, inclusive and transparent process for the negotiations of the World Summit 20-year review and follow-up in Geneva and New York that should include informal consultations with Member States, observers and stakeholders;

137. *Also stresses*, in regard to the above, the aim to maximize benefits from technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and re-emphasizes the notion of leaving no one behind, which is the central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda;

138. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.



## **Draft resolution II** **Science, technology and innovation for development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development, and as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies,

*Recognizing also* the critical role of science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, in fostering sustainable development, enhancing economic competitiveness, and addressing global challenges, and highlighting their role as key enablers of the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming* that strengthened international cooperation in science, technology and innovation, particularly between developed and developing countries, is essential for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledging the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing to facilitate the transfer and diffusion of technologies on mutually agreed terms in line with sustainable development priorities,

*Noting* that most developing countries are facing specific challenges with a weak level of digital development and limited access to science, technology and innovation, necessitating adapted approaches to overcome these obstacles and to support resilient and sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation as enablers of development,

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>2</sup> and General Assembly resolution [70/125](#) of 16 December 2015, entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>3</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>4</sup>

*Recalling further* that, in its resolution [79/206](#) of 19 December 2024, the General Assembly acknowledged that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, in particular developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and reiterated the urgency of scaling up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, for

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>4</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

implementing approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to these effects,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution [79/206](#), the General Assembly recognized that the current need for adaptation is significant, and that greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts, and that greater adaptation needs can involve greater adaptation costs, emphasizing the importance of continuing to take actions to promote the adequacy and predictability of adaptation finance, taking into account the role of the Adaptation Fund in delivering dedicated support for adaptation, and reaffirming that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation,

*Noting with great concern* the severe impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which adversely impacted societies and economies, and reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and promoting a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

*Recognizing* that the General Assembly, in its resolutions [76/213](#) of 17 December 2021 and [78/160](#) of 19 December 2023 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, and the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2024/14](#) of 23 July 2024 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the priorities and measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies so that policies and programmes are supportive of national development agendas,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 2021/254 of 22 July 2021 providing for the extension, until 2025, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and reaffirming the need to address the barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

*Recognizing* the commitments made within the United Nations system to promote gender equality and support women's empowerment in science, technology and innovation,

*Acknowledging* global and regional initiatives aimed at addressing the gender digital divide,

*Noting with concern* the existing disparities between developed and developing countries in terms of conditions, possibilities and capacities to produce new scientific and technological knowledge, and emphasizing that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration as well as international support are fundamental to enhancing developing countries' ability to benefit from technological advances and to produce, nurture, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

*Highlighting* the contribution that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development can make to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, bearing in mind its mandate to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among

Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, academia, United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders for achieving Sustainable Development Goals supported by science, technology and innovation,

*Taking into account* the importance of international cooperation in science, technology and innovation to achieve the international community's commitment to sustainable development and leaving no one behind, and the role of global partnerships in facilitating the co-creation of global solutions to tackling global challenges,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [78/259](#) of 9 January 2024 on the International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South, in which the Assembly called upon the international community to foster an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development and cooperation, and to support all countries, particularly the global South, in strengthening their national science, technology and innovation systems,

*Recognizing* that capabilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, design, management and entrepreneurial skills are central for effective innovation, but are unevenly distributed across and within countries and regions, and that the availability, accessibility and affordability of inclusive and equitable quality education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, as well as lifelong learning opportunities in science, technology and mathematics, are essential and should be funded, promoted, prioritized and coordinated, in order to create an inclusive social environment conducive to the advancement of science, technology and innovation,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and recalling also the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and looking forward to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Seville, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025,

*Noting* that rapid technological change can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda by improving real incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions to economic, social and environmental obstacles, supporting more inclusive forms of participation in social and economic life, bridging the digital divides in all their forms, replacing environmentally costly modes of production with more sustainable ones and giving policymakers powerful tools to design and plan development interventions,

*Noting also* that new technologies create new jobs and development opportunities, thus increasing the demand for digital skills and competencies, and underlining the importance of building digital skills and competencies so that societies can adapt to and benefit from relevant technological changes,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions [72/242](#) of 22 December 2017, [73/17](#) of 26 November 2018, [75/316](#) of 17 August 2021 and [77/320](#) of 25 July 2023, in which the Assembly requested the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existing resources,

*Welcoming* the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization" and "Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development", and taking note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development*,

*Recalling* the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews that has been developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist countries in better aligning science, technology and innovation policies with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>5</sup>

*Recognizing* the need for innovative approaches that respond to the needs of those in vulnerable situations in developing and developed countries, while protecting personal data from misuse and respecting the ownership of personal data, that involve them in innovation processes and that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

*Recognizing also* the importance of data protection and privacy in the context of science and technology for development,

*Recognizing further* that technology foresight and assessment exercises, including gender-sensitive and environmentally sensitive technologies, could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

*Recognizing* that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems<sup>6</sup> play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

*Recognizing also* the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”<sup>7</sup> including the principles referred to therein,

*Recognizing* the need to renew commitments to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution [72/228](#) of 20 December 2017, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means of attracting new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, at the regional and multilateral levels as appropriate,

*Noting* that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest in and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth, incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer and financial and technical assistance support,

*Recognizing* that people around the world are affected by shocks, from economic crises to health emergencies, from social conflicts and war to disasters

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2019/4.

<sup>6</sup> The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution [66/288](#), annex.

caused by natural hazards, and that these shocks have a severe impact on the progress towards achieving sustainable development,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution 74/306 of 11 September 2020, the General Assembly called upon Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote research and development and capacity-building initiatives, as well as to enhance cooperation on and access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* the intricate relationship between data and sustainable development and the complexity of data governance,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, the General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future as part of the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, which includes a dedicated section on science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation and an annexed Global Digital Compact, and recalling also that, in paragraph 48 of the Global Digital Compact, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was requested to establish a dedicated working group to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development,

*Recognizing* the contribution of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities by empowering and giving a voice to people, including those in vulnerable situations, through, among others, extending access to education and health, monitoring environmental and social risks, connecting people, enabling early warning systems, driving economic diversification, and economic development, while considering negative effects on the environment,

*Noting* the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

*Taking into consideration* that traditional knowledge can be a basis for technological development and the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

*Recognizing* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its efforts to support the establishment of the Commission's Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development,

1. *Recommends* the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

- (a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:
  - (i) To integrate science, technology and innovation into national strategies in countries in vulnerable situations to develop resilient and affordable digital infrastructure to promote access to information and communications technologies, and to conduct specific analysis of the impact of technological change on development and support the development of pilot projects;
  - (ii) To establish a close link between science, technology, innovation and sustainable development strategies, giving a prominent place to institutional,

infrastructure and human resource capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in the future vision and planning of national development;

(iii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting infrastructure development, including smart infrastructure, through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iv) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access, to all people, particularly women, girls, children and youth, and persons with special needs and from remote and rural communities, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to accelerate the growth in the number of new Internet users and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

(v) To support the development, deployment and sustainable use of emerging and open-source technologies and support policies towards open science and open innovation and know-how for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries;

(vi) To conduct systemic research, including gender-sensitive aspects, for foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(vii) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies and all relevant entities and forums, such as the Commission and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Goals;

(viii) To continue giving due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existent resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [72/242](#), [73/17](#), [75/316](#) and [77/320](#);

(ix) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential digital and other gaps or constraints in education for the medium and long terms and address such gaps with a policy mix, including connecting schools to the Internet and taking into account the specific needs of women and girls in the promotion of gender-responsive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, vocational training and digital and data literacy;

(x) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues, such as the changing nature of work and building consensus on future policies, and to help to meet current and emerging demands for competence and adaptation to change;

- (xi) To incorporate the provision of digital competencies, including but not limited to entrepreneurship and complementary soft skills, in technical and vocational education and training and formal education curricula and lifelong learning opportunities, while taking into consideration best practices, local contexts and needs, and ensuring broad and up-to-date technological knowledge and that education is technology-neutral;
- (xii) To develop responsive and sustainable policies to leverage frontier technologies for inclusive economic diversification, underscoring the important role of digital public infrastructure, open innovation, capacity-building and equitable international cooperation in enabling countries to keep pace with technological advancements and diversify industries with higher value-added production that benefits all sectors of society and promotes climate resilience and social equity;
- (xiii) To foster an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development and cooperation;
- (xiv) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate with ongoing mapping systems led by United Nations bodies to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;
- (xv) To conduct technology assessment and foresight exercises as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders towards creating a shared understanding of the implications of rapid technological change;
- (xvi) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation into the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (xvii) To encourage assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, taking into account the needs and perspectives of women and girls, and gender-sensitive aspects, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States, and, on a voluntary basis, to provide financial support and expertise towards the implementation of the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in interested developing countries;
- (xviii) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach, including gender-responsive approaches, to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
- (xix) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, as well as public-private partnerships, based on mutually beneficial, equitable and transparent cooperation between public and private entities in the development and deployment of technologies, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship and making available disaggregated data sources for science, technology and innovation;
- (xx) To implement initiatives and programmes that encourage and facilitate sustainable investment and participation in the digital economy;



(xxi) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies gradually in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability, encourage the creation, reuse and sharing of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(xxii) To promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and statistical literacy, particularly among female students, while also recognizing the importance of complementary soft skills, such as entrepreneurship, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective when developing and implementing policies that harness science, technology and innovation;

(xxiii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(xxiv) To encourage countries to support education and progressively increase high-quality skilled human resources at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, in different sectors, solving problems and enhancing human welfare, while fostering an enabling environment for improved career prospects and work conditions;

(xxv) To increase support for research and development activities on rapid technological change and ensure the coherence of science, technology and innovation policies and strategies on rapid technological change with the broader national development agenda;

(xxvi) To consider engaging in an inclusive global discourse about all aspects of rapid technological change and its impact on sustainable development;

(xxvii) To promote comprehensive policies that ensure the safety and ethical use of data, and robust cybersecurity practices;

(xxviii) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals, for which the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Seville in 2025, constitutes an excellent opportunity;

(xxix) To encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities and those in vulnerable situations, women and girls, youth, older persons and people with special needs, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

(xxx) To support the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to improve the scientific research and innovation base of least developed countries, promote networking among researchers and research institutions, help least developed countries to gain access to and utilize technology, draw together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector and implement projects that contribute to the use of science, technology and innovation for economic development in least developed countries;



(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues, and in this regard to contribute to informing the high-level thematic debate on the topic of the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its eightieth session, and to the discussion of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions [75/316](#) and [77/320](#) at its eightieth session;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies;

(iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;

(v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>8</sup> international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vii) To support multi-stakeholder collaboration in policy learning capacity-building and technology development, including to support the participation of actors in the innovation systems of Member States in international networks and programmes to continue to build their capacity in innovation;

(viii) To support efforts to build capacity to develop, use and deploy new and existing technologies, based on needs, in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

(ix) To harness emerging technologies for the acceleration of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, raise awareness and deepen understanding of potential risks of emerging technologies and take actions to mitigate these risks, and enhance the skills and competencies necessary as well as international cooperation to address them;

(x) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research,

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<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(xi) To explore ways and means of conducting international technology assessments and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies and their implications for sustainable development and building resilient communities;

(xii) To support countries in their efforts to identify future trends in terms of capacity-building needs, including through foresight exercises;

(xiii) To scale up the means of implementation to developing countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacities, including by harnessing technologies and scientific knowledge as a global public good through the enhancement of the use of open science and affordable open-source technology;

(xiv) To discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(xv) To promote cooperation through the conduct of capacity-building and research and development initiatives among Member States, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

(xvi) To provide a forum for sharing not only success stories and best practices, but also failures, key challenges and learning from the results of foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities, including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xvii) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xviii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant forums;

(xix) To strengthen and deepen collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of

Women, including sharing good practices and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation;

(xx) To play an active role in creating awareness in support of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

(xxi) To report to the General Assembly, by no later than the eighty-first session, on the progress made by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To implement as widely as possible its framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, including a specific focus on bottom-of-the-pyramid approaches to innovation and on social inclusion;

(iv) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(v) To request the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(vi) To note the appreciation of the Commission for the contribution of the Gender Advisory Board to the discussions of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, in particular at the high-level panel on technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development;

(vii) To encourage Governments to use the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to support science, technology and innovation in least developed countries and to assist least developed countries to further develop their own technologies;

(viii) To continue to provide support for the States members of the Commission in their joint initiatives aimed at promoting science, technology and innovation in line with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

2. *Recommends* that the Commission consider initiating an informal process of consultations among member States, ahead of its twenty-ninth session, in order to improve the efficiency of the resolution on science, technology and innovation,

bearing in mind the goal of the Commission to foster science, technology and innovation for development, respecting the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account that this process will include the interests of all member States, especially developing countries, in a balanced and comprehensive manner on the basis of the present resolution, retaining the equilibrium reached in previous years.

## **B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council**

2. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

### **Draft decision I**

#### **Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

The Economic and Social Council decides to extend the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for a further five years, beginning on 1 January 2026, in order to allow it to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

### **Draft decision II**

#### **Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decisions 2008/217 of 18 July 2008, 2010/226 of 19 July 2010, 2011/236 of 26 July 2011, 2015/243 of 22 July 2015 and 2021/255 of 22 July 2021, and recognizing the need to maximize the meaningful participation of and contributions by civil society in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had benefited from the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in its work;

(b) Decides, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to extend to non-governmental organizations and civil society entities that are not in consultative status with the Council but that received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society an invitation to participate in the work of the Commission until 2030;

(c) Urges that voluntary contributions be made in order to provide the maximum possible assistance for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities from developing countries and to ensure the balanced representation of such organizations and entities, including in the panels of the Commission;

(d) Invites the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider as expeditiously as possible the applications of such organizations and entities, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

(e) Decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(f) Also decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

### **Draft decision III**

#### **Participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decisions 2008/218 of 18 July 2008, 2010/227 of 19 July 2010, 2011/237 of 26 July 2011, 2015/244 of 22 July 2015 and 2021/256 of 22 July 2021, recognizing the need to maximize the meaningful participation of and contributions by academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and having reviewed the current modalities for the participation of such entities:

- (a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had benefited from the participation of academic and technical entities in its work;
- (b) Decides to extend the current arrangements for the participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission until 2030;
- (c) Also decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;
- (d) Further decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

### **Draft decision IV**

#### **Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development**

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decisions 2007/216 of 26 April 2007, 2010/228 of 19 July 2010, 2011/238 of 26 July 2011, 2015/245 of 22 July 2015 and 2021/257 of 22 July 2021, recognizing the need to maximize the meaningful participation of and contributions by business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and having reviewed the current modalities for the participation of such entities:

- (a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had benefited from the participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in its work;
- (b) Decides to extend the current arrangements for the participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission until 2030;
- (c) Also decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;
- (d) Further decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing

countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

**Draft decision V**  
**Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for**  
**Development on its twenty-eighth session and provisional agenda**  
**and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-eighth session;<sup>1</sup>

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission as set out below:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development: priority themes:
  - (a) Leveraging national innovation systems to accelerate progress in addressing national development challenges;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

- (b) Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation following Commission outcomes.
5. Progress report of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development.
6. Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirtieth session of the Commission.
7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session.

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 11 (E/2025/31).*

## Chapter II

### Action taken by the Commission

#### A. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, including the 20-year review thereof

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 9 April 2025, at a high-level discussion, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Hungary).

4. At its closing plenary meeting, on 11 April, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society” by a vote of 33 in favour and 1 against and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

5. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote (see [https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162025\\_s01\\_remarks\\_vote\\_usa\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162025_s01_remarks_vote_usa_en.pdf)).

#### B. Science and technology for development

##### Priority themes:

##### (a) Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization

##### (b) Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development

6. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 7 and 8 April 2025.

7. The Commission held high-level panel discussions on the first priority theme, “Diversifying economies in a world of accelerated digitalization”, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Portugal), and on the second priority theme, “Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development”, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Philippines).

8. At its closing plenary meeting, on 11 April, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development” by a vote of 33 in favour and 1 against and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

9. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote (see [https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162025\\_s01\\_remarks\\_vote\\_usa\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162025_s01_remarks_vote_usa_en.pdf)).

#### C. Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation following Commission outcomes

10. The Commission considered agenda item 4 on 8 April 2025, at its 4th meeting, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Peru).

#### D. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission

11. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its closing plenary meeting, on 11 April 2025.



12. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its twenty-ninth session:

*Vice-Chairs:*

Peter **Major** (Hungary)  
Guilherme de Aguiar **Patriota** (Brazil)  
Muhammadou M.O. **Kah** (Gambia)  
Isabelle **Lois** (Switzerland)

13. The Commission postponed the election of the Chair from the Asia-Pacific States. The appointment of the Rapporteur, from among the Vice-Chairs, will be decided at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

## **E. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission**

14. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its closing plenary meeting, on 11 April 2025, and adopted the priority themes for the twenty-ninth session and the draft decision to be submitted to the Council concerning the report on the twenty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session. The Commission decided to recommend the draft decision to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

15. The Commission also adopted a draft decision extending the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board by a vote of 25 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions and decided to recommend it to the Council for adoption. The Commission further adopted three draft decisions on the participation of non-State stakeholders in its work and decided to recommend them to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

16. The Chair announced that the twenty-ninth session of the Commission would be held from 20 to 24 April 2026.

## **F. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session**

17. The Commission recommended, through a draft decision adopted at its closing plenary meeting, on 11 April 2025, that the Council take note of the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session (see chap. I, sect. B).

## **G. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

18. At its twenty-eighth session, from 7 to 11 April 2025, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Commission held seven plenary meetings.

19. At the 1st meeting, on 7 April, the Chair, Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia), opened the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, and the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.16/2025/1](#).

20. At the closing plenary meeting, on 11 April, the Chair announced that the Vice-Chair Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves (Portugal) would serve as Rapporteur for the session.

21. The documents before the Commission at its twenty-eighth session are available at <https://unctad.org/meeting/commission-science-and-technology-development-28th-session>. The list of participants for the session is contained in document [E/CN.16/2025/INF/1](#).

