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# Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Raymond **Landveld** (Suriname)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 21 (see A/66/442, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 34th and 38th meetings, on 10 November and 2 December 2011. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/66/SR.34 and 38).

## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.24 and A/C.2/66/L.71

2. At the 34th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/66/L.24), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007 and 64/212 of 21 December 2009,

"*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and 2009/8 of 24 July 2009,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/66/442 and Add.1-3.

"*Recalling also* the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 65/280 of 17 June 2011,

"*Recalling* the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,

"*Recognizing* the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, and improve productivity and competitiveness,

"*Concerned* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that for the majority of the poor the promise of science and technology remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide,

"*Recognizing* the importance of international support in assisting developing countries to benefit from technological advances that can enhance their productive capacity,

"*Reaffirming* the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

"*Noting with appreciation* the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing a network of centres of excellence in science and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

"*Taking note with interest* of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,

"*Encouraging* the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,

"1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

"(a) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

"(b) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

"(c) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

"(d) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including appropriate technology;

"(e) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

"(f) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

"2. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations agencies in helping Governments, upon request, to ensure that their science, technology and innovation policies and programmes support national development agendas;

"3. *Recognizes also* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

"4. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

"5. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

"6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies;

"7. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to

promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

"8. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects, where feasible, by mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

"9. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

"10. *Reiterates its call* for continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies."

3. At its 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/66/L.71), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Bitrus Vandy Yohanna (Nigeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.24.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to act on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.71.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.71 had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 38th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.71 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

# III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Science and technology for development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007 and 64/212 of 21 December 2009,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and 2009/8 of 24 July 2009,

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

*Recalling also* the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[2]

*Taking note* of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session,[3]

*Recalling* its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 65/280 of 17 June 2011,

*Recalling* the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,[4]

*Recognizing* the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, and improve productivity and competitiveness,

*Concerned* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that for the majority of the poor the promise of science and technology remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide,

*Recognizing* that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity,

*Reaffirming* the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

*Noting with appreciation* the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing a network of centres of excellence in science

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See A/60/687 and A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11* (E/2011/31).

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

*Taking note with interest* of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

*Encouraging* the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,

1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(a) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(b) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(c) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(d) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including appropriate technology;

(e) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(f) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

3. *Notes* that full and equal access to and participation in science and technology for women of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and underlines that addressing barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[2] and to address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing

[5] A/66/208.

countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies;

7. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

8. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects, where feasible, by mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

9. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

10. *Reiterates its call* for continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies.