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**Globalization and interdependence: science and technology
for development**

South Africa:* 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, 64/212 of 21 December 2009, 66/211 of 22 December 2011 and 68/220 of 20 December 2013,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2009/8 of 24 July 2009, 2010/3 of 19 July 2010, 2011/17 of 26 July 2011, 2012/6 of 24 July 2012, 2013/10 of 22 July 2013, 2014/28 of 16 July 2014 and 2015/27 of 22 July 2015,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹

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

Recalling further the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,³

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ Resolution 60/1.

² See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

³ Resolution 66/288, annex.



Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the importance of technology as one of the key means of implementation in the pursuit of sustainable development, along with finance, capacity-building, an institutional framework and trade,

Taking note of the reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions,⁴

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

Recognizing the importance of the creation of a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient and effective intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science and technology by developing countries,

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,⁵

Recognizing the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and nutrition, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and ultimately support sustainable development,

Recognizing also that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries is fundamental to enhancing their ability to produce, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

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, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide within countries and between developed and developing countries,

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

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11 (E/2011/31);* *ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2012/31 and Corr.1); *ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2013/31 and Corr.1); *ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2014/31)*; and *ibid.*, 2015, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2015/31)*.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 2011, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2011/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

and nurture innovation capacity to enable the development, adoption and dissemination of technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science, technology and innovation 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 designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Recalling paragraph 114 of the Addis Ababa Agenda, in which it is noted that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, including enabling regulatory and governance frameworks, in nurturing science, innovation, the dissemination of technologies, particularly to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as industrial diversification and value added to commodities,

Welcoming the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁶

Noting the ongoing efforts by the World Intellectual Property Organization, under its existing mandate, to establish technology and innovation support centres in over 65 countries, providing access to technological information through patent databases and access to scientific literature through the Access to Research for Development and Innovation programme, the Access to Specialized Patent Information programme and development of national intellectual property and innovation strategies,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General,⁷

Encouraging the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, 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;

⁶ Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 123.

⁷ [A/66/208](#), [A/68/227](#) and [A/70/276](#).

(b) To promote the development and use of information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as capacity-building, in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in countries and for people under foreign occupation and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, including rapid universal and affordable access to the Internet, and to promote access to technology and science for women, youth and children and to further facilitate accessible technology for persons with disabilities;

(c) To encourage knowledge-sharing and the promotion of cooperation and partnerships among stakeholders, including Governments, firms, academia and civil society, in sectors contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(d) To promote entrepreneurship, including by supporting business incubators, and foster linkages between multinational companies and the domestic private sector to facilitate the development of technology and transfer, on mutually agreed terms, of knowledge and skills, including through skills-trading programmes, in particular to developing countries, with the support of appropriate policies;

(e) To encourage the development, dissemination and diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and to endeavour to step up international cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the needs of developing countries and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(f) To continue to support developing countries in strengthening their scientific, technological and innovative capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, including through implementation of the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

(g) To enhance international cooperation, including official development assistance, in these areas, in particular to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in Africa, countries and people under foreign occupation and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to encourage other forms of international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, to complement these efforts;

(h) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources in science, technology and innovation through, inter alia, education, basic science and engineering, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(i) To the actions agreed upon by the least developed countries and development partners on science, technology and innovation, as outlined in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;⁸

⁸ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. II.

(j) To fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology;

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

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

(m) 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;

(n) To encourage the engagement of the private sector to support developing countries, through voluntary partnerships, including the transfer of technology and related know-how, on mutually agreed terms, through mechanisms such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the climate innovation centres of the World Bank infoDev programme and the Re:Search and GREEN programmes of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of applying best practices in coordination and the sharing of lessons learned within and between partners to avoid duplication and increase impact;

(o) To support better coordination and coherence, including the application of best practices in coordination and the sharing of lessons learned among United Nations agencies and international organizations providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of science, technology and innovation directed towards development priorities and needs;

2. *Reaffirms* the central role of Governments, with active contributions from stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society and research institutions, in creating and supporting an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and the advancement of science, technology and engineering, in accordance with national priorities;

3. *Underlines* the need to craft policies that provide incentives for the creation of new technologies and research and that support innovation in developing countries and promote social innovation to support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods;

4. *Recognizes* the current role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as other relevant organizations, in helping Governments, upon request, to ensure that science, technology and innovation policies are integrated into and are supportive of national development strategies and sustainable development in their countries and that their science, technology and innovation policies and programmes support national development agendas;

5. *Also recognizes* that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

6. *Affirms* that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should be given due consideration in the implementation of the Agenda;

7. *Underscores* the need to adopt science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies to help strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration as well as to scale up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training, ensuring equal access for women and girls and encouraging their participation therein;

8. *Recognizes* that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation 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, technology and innovation requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, and in this regard urges Governments to mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes;

9. *Notes* the importance of facilitating access to and sharing accessible and assistive technologies, through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and other actions, to advance disability-inclusive development, ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and promote their empowerment, recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population;

10. *Underscores* the need to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

11. *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 continue its work on sharing best practices;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations University, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

13. *Encourages* the World Intellectual Property Organization to continue to undertake technical support activities, including the development of national intellectual patent and innovation strategies;

14. *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;

15. *Encourages* efforts to increase the availability of data to support the measurement of national innovation systems (such as the existing global innovation indices) and empirical research on innovation and development to assist policymakers in designing and implementing innovation strategies;

16. *Also encourages* the enhancement of capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

17. *Further 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;

18. *Emphasizes* that science, technology and innovation are critical in meeting development goals, including sustainable development objectives, and that many developing countries are facing serious challenges in building their national science, technology and innovation base;

19. *Encourages* scientific organizations and research institutions dealing with science, technology and innovation to develop dynamic strategic alliances with Governments, the public and private sectors, universities, laboratories and civil society to further expand their fellowship and training programmes, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to initiate, implement and support measures to improve the level of participation of scientists and engineers from developing countries in international collaborative research, science, technology and innovation projects and to promote investments in order to enhance public knowledge and to achieve sustainable development;

21. *Also calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen their support for the different science, technology and innovation partnerships with developing countries in primary, secondary and higher education, vocational education and continuing education, business opportunities for the private sector, science, technology and innovation infrastructure and science, technology and innovation advice for developing countries;

22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and its launch by the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and looks forward to the full operationalization of all components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the online platform;

23. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the differences in levels of development among 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;

24. *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;

25. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second 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 as well as in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
