Chapter I

Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2013, the world economy continued to expand at a subdued pace. Several new policy initiatives in major developed economies had reduced systemic risks and helped stabilize consumer, business and investor confidence, but with very limited impact on growth. Developing countries and economies in transition continued to register much stronger growth than developed economies, as many of them adopted more expansionary monetary and, to a lesser extent, fiscal policies to strengthen domestic demand. At the same time, more than 1 billion people were living in extreme poverty; income inequality within and among many countries was rising; and unsustainable consumption and production patterns had resulted in significant economic and social costs. At the United Nations, accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as steps for advancing the development agenda beyond 2015, were major focus areas in development policy and international economic cooperation.

At a special event in September, the General Assembly expressed concern about the unevenness and gaps in the achievement of the MDGs; called upon developed countries to urgently fulfill their official development assistance commitments; and underlined the need for a coherent approach that integrated the three dimensions of sustainable development. With regard to implementation of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, the Economic and Social Council abolished the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which concluded its work on 20 September. It was replaced by the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Assembly set out the modalities for the functioning of the high-level political forum, which held its first meeting (24 September, New York) on the theme “Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda”.

The Economic and Social Council, at its high-level segment in July, discussed the theme of science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs. The Assembly, in December, expressed its concern that many developing countries lacked affordable access to information and communication technologies, and emphasized the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide. Further activities by the UN system in the field of sustainable development were related to agricultural technology for development, sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America.

The Assembly reviewed progress made in implementing the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) and urged Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing a global strategy, building upon the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization.

In June, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered progress made in implementing and following up on the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society. It also addressed its two priority themes on science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities, and on peri-urban communities and Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society.

With regard to development policy and public administration, the Committee for Development Policy, in March, addressed four themes: science, technology and innovation in achieving sustainable development; the vulnerabilities and development needs of the small island developing States (SIDS); emerging issues in international development in the post-2015 era; and issues relating to the least developed countries (LDCs).

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its session in April, considered the role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, including making public governance work for the post-2015 development agenda; accountability of stakeholders in public governance for development; and creating an enabling environment for the post-2015 development agenda.

The United Nations continued to address the development problems of groups of countries in special situations, including follow-up on the Fourth United
Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; UN system support to stts, as well as progress in implementing the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the follow-up on the 2005 Mauritius Strategy; and the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action for assisting landlocked developing countries.

**International economic relations**

**Economic and social trends**

The *World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges* [Sales No. E.13.II.C.1, overview E/2013/50], published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), stated that more than 1 billion people were still living in extreme poverty, and income inequality within and among many countries was rising. At the same time, unsustainable consumption and production patterns had resulted in huge economic and social costs, potentially endangering life on the planet. The report focused on three important cross-sectoral challenges with immediate implications for realizing sustainable development: sustainable cities, food and nutrition security and energy transformation. Urbanization provided new opportunities for millions of people, and contributed to poverty eradication efforts worldwide; however, rapid urbanization added pressure to the resource base, increasing demand for energy, water, and sanitation, as well as for public services, education and health care. With an estimated 70 per cent of the world’s population living in cities by 2050, 85 per cent of which would be in developing regions, especially Africa and Asia, challenges to the institutional capacities for improving access to sound infrastructure, decent employment, and reducing vulnerability loomed large. The number of people living in slums was expected also to triple by 2050, from the current figure of some 1 billion, if no policy framework was established to address the issue. Moreover, climate change impacts would increase cities’ vulnerabilities and put further stress on the adaptive capacities of the poor. The policy framework for the sustainable development of urban areas required cooperation among local, national, and global communities and partnerships to mobilize public and private resources. Effective urban management would necessitate integration and coordination, including regarding land-use issues, food security, employment creation, transportation, infrastructure development, biodiversity conservation, water conservation, renewable energy sourcing, waste and recycling management, and the provision of education, health care and housing. The report proposed an integrated set of investments in infrastructure, public services and capacity development for different groups of countries.

With respect to ensuring food and nutrition security, the target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015 would not be met in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Further, because of the low quality and low diversity of available food, the challenge of malnutrition was broader than the issue of hunger or undernourishment. Estimates indicated that food production would have to increase 70 per cent globally to feed an additional 2.3 billion people by 2050. An integrated approach to food security and the environment should take into consideration the food, water, energy, environment and climate nexus, while reorienting food production, distribution and consumption. Efforts should focus on increasing agricultural productivity and investments in agriculture-related research and development; closing the productivity gap of smallholder farms; infrastructural investments; establishing social protection mechanisms; including social safety nets; and reducing food wastage.

The transformation of the energy system had to be a core element of the sustainable development agenda to improve the living standards of people with equity and environmental sustainability. Complex challenges in that regard ranged from issues of growth, macroeconomic balances, and technology innovation and its diffusion, to human development concerns. Industrial policies, technological innovation, transfer and adaptation, and energy plans based on integrated energy assessments required decisive, ingenious and coherent national policymaking and international cooperation.

The survey concluded that responding to those challenges, and achieving sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), required large-scale investments from both public and international private actors, supported by an enabling policy environment at the national and international levels and renewed commitments to official development assistance.

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013* [Sales No. E.13.II.C.2; update E/2013/70], jointly produced by DESA, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five UN regional commissions, stated that, despite improved global financial conditions and reduced short-term risks, the world economy continued to expand at a subdued pace and was expected to slowly gain momentum in the second half of 2013. Although most world regions were likely to see a moderate strengthening, growth would remain below potential. Several new policy initiatives in major developed economies had reduced systemic risks and helped stabilize consumer, business and investor confidence, but with very limited impacts on growth. In the euro area, the real economy was held back by austerity programmes, weak bank lending and continued uncertainty, and only a very gradual recovery was expected as those factors diminished. In
Chapter I: Development policy and international economic cooperation

the United States, the avoidance of the fiscal cliff and the expansion of monetary easing, along with continued recovery in the housing sector, improved growth prospects. In Japan, while its bold expansionary policy actions were expected to provide some support for economic activity in the short run they might, however, create heightened medium-term uncertainties regarding the sustainability of public debt. Developing countries and economies in transition continued to register much stronger growth than developed economies, as many of them, including some large countries in East Asia, South Asia and Latin America, adopted more expansionary monetary and, to a lesser extent, fiscal policies to strengthen domestic demand. The pickup in growth would, however, be slower than previously estimated as many large economies in that group, including Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation, faced significant structural challenges. Potential growth in many developing countries was likely to be lower than before the global financial crisis. The least developed countries (LDCs) were projected to see faster growth in 2013 than in the previous two years.

The main priority for policymakers worldwide would therefore be to support a robust and balanced global recovery, with a focus on promoting job creation. International policy coordination needed to be enhanced to mitigate negative policy spillovers, curb protectionism, promote cooperation in reforming the international financial system and ensure sufficient resource flows to developing economies, in particular LDCs.


Development and international economic cooperation

International economic cooperation issues were considered by various UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. On 22 April, the Council held, in New York, its special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, addressing the theme “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.” The Council had before it for consideration a note by the Secretary-General on the subject [E/2013/52]. The Council also held a high-level panel discussion on the theme “World economic situation and prospects in the wake of the world financial and economic crisis.”

On 20 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second (Economic and Financial) Com-

mittee on its discussion of macroeconomic policy questions [A/68/436] (decision 68/540).

High-level segment of Economic and Social Council

In accordance with decision 2011/208 [YUN 2011, p. 791], the Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its 2013 substantive session (Geneva, 1–4 July) [A/68/3/Rev.1], discussed the theme of “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals” (MDGs) (see p. 800). The Council had before it the Secretary-General’s report on the subject [E/2013/54]; notes by the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs [E/2013/47]; and by the Secretariat on the meeting of the 2012/2013 Intercessional Panel of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2013/74] (see p. 801); a report on the contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as the principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the MDGs [E/2013/72] (see p. 772); and the Secretary-General’s report on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields [E/2013/15 & Add.1, 2].

It also had before it the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifteenth session [E/2013/33] (see p. 816), the World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable development challenges [E/2013/50] (see p. 770) and a report on the world economic situation and prospects as of mid-2013 [E/2013/70] (ibid.). On 16 December, the Council adopted a draft ministerial declaration on the theme of the high-level segment [E/2013/L.18].

Launching of Global Innovation Index. On 1 July, the Council launched the Global Innovation Index.

Policy dialogue. On 2 July, the Council held a high-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions of the UN system on developments in the world economy.

Thematic discussion. On 28 January, by decision 2012/263, the Council decided that the theme for the thematic discussion of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2013 would be “The contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals”. On 2 and 4 July, the Council held its thematic discussions. It had before
it a report [E/2013/72] of the Secretary-General on the topic, which presented substantive issues in development that had emerged in the course of the Council’s review of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The analysis was positioned in the context of significant global concerns about existing, new and emerging development challenges and how they related to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. The context was also defined by the discussions in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780]. The report found that the major UN conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 45], had been extremely useful in focusing the attention of the international community around key development challenges, and that the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to their outcomes had to be strengthened. In that regard, the post-2015 development agenda should be based on more holistic, sustainable pathways.

On 16 December, by decision 2013/262, the Council took note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the theme of the annual ministerial review and on the Council’s contribution to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, and for the follow-up to the MDGs.

Communications. On 25 October [A/68/595], Fiji transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (New York, 26 September), which reviewed the world economic situation and addressed development challenges faced by developing countries.

On 16 December [A/68/667], Saint Lucia transmitted to the Secretary-General the 10 December statement of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the post-2015 development agenda.

Globalization and interdependence

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/210 [YUN 2011, p. 792], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/68/259] on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, which analysed the interlinkages between globalization, poverty eradication and sustainable development, using the three dimensions of sustainable development as a framing tool. The report affirmed that multilateralism needed to be further strengthened, rather than diffused, to effectively address and manage complex and interlinked challenges. According to the Secretary-General, the United Nations served as an inclusive forum on development and globalization and could further promote multilateral coordination, coherence and accountability in the post-2015 era. In response to the greater need for, and increasing challenges of, policy coordination and coherence, the proper functioning of the institutional framework for the review and follow-up work in the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development (see p. 781), would be more important than ever. For the United Nations to strengthen its effectiveness and relevance in the new development environment, a longer-term strategic repositioning of its development system was needed, which would involve rethinking, adjusting and strengthening such areas as functions, funding, capacity, partnerships, organizational arrangements and governance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/440/Add.1], adopted resolution 68/219 without vote [agenda item 21 (a)].

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 62/199 of 19 December 2007, 63/222 of 19 December 2008, 64/210 of 21 December 2009, 65/168 of 20 December 2010 and 66/210 of 22 December 2011 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, acknowledging the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral system in order to address the urgent global challenges of today, recognizing the universality of the United Nations, and reaffirming its commitment to promote and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations,

reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

acknowledging that the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly, provides a universal and inclusive multilateral forum which confers incomparable value to its discussions and its decisions on global matters of concern to the international community,

recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, and all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields for the promotion of sustainable development and their outcomes and follow-up processes,

recognizing that the international multilateral system should continue to support sustainable development, particularly in relation to inclusive and equitable economic growth, job creation and the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve environmental sustainability, and should continue to promote good governance and the rule of law at all levels,

recognizing also that globalization and interdependence imply that the economic performance of a country
is increasingly affected by factors outside its geographical borders, that maximizing the benefits of globalization in an equitable manner requires responses at the global, regional and national levels and that there remains a need for a strengthened global partnership for development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Emphasizing that globalization is a useful tool for development that should benefit all countries and that every effort should be made by all to meaningfully integrate all countries into the global economy by creating an enabling international environment for their goods and services.

Reaffirming its strong support for fair and inclusive globalization and the need to translate sustained, inclusive and equitable growth into sustainable development, particularly poverty eradication, and, in this regard, its resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including poverty eradication strategies, as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Reaffirming also the commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all and to promote the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization.

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the world economic and financial crisis, particularly on development, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system, while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Reiterates the need for inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral approaches to managing global challenges, and in this regard reaffirms the central role of the United Nations system in ongoing efforts to find common solutions to such challenges;

2. Recognizes the need for the multilateral trade, economic and financial architecture to incorporate and promote sustainable development and ensure greater coherence and coordination to promote an enabling international environment that facilitates the work of Member States in addressing, inter alia, poverty, inequalities and environmental challenges;

3. Reaffirms the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and reiterates its commitment to strengthening coordination within the United Nations in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustainable development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

4. Also reaffirms the need to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in enhancing the global partnership for development, with a view to creating a supportive global environment for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, including accelerating efforts to deliver and fully implement existing global partnership for development commitments, and emphasizes in this regard the need for enhanced accountability of the United Nations development system to Member States;

5. Recognizes that the scaling-up of successful policies and approaches in the implementation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals needs to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership for development;

6. Also recognizes the central role of a strengthened global partnership for development, based on lessons learned in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, to support a truly universal global development agenda beyond 2015;

7. Further recognizes that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policy, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations and that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space;

8. Recognizes that policies which integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development can contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries, with a view to guaranteeing that the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations maximize their benefits from a globalized world;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report on the sub-item entitled “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence”.

Also on 20 December (decision 68/542), the Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee on globalization and interdependence [A/68/440].

Development cooperation with middle-income countries

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 66/212 [YUN 2011, p. 793], the Secretary-General, in August, submitted a report [A/68/265] on development cooperation with middle-income countries. The report stated that, on aggregate, middle-income countries had shown robust growth and made progress in development, although performance varied among them. However, many of
them were vulnerable to being caught in a so-called “middle-income trap”, where they lost competitiveness compared to low-income countries but lacked the technological edge to catch up with high-income countries. The challenge was to redesign development strategies for them with a focus on innovative, sustainable and inclusive growth, gradually shifting to higher value added sectors.

According to the report, while the UN system was widely represented in middle-income countries, providing development assistance on many fronts, it lacked an overarching, well-defined strategic framework for development cooperation with those countries, as the principles and modalities of that cooperation had yet to be fully defined. One proposal in that regard was to establish a UN inter-agency plan of action, including setting up a working group to support its implementation, building on existing precedents in developing institutional frameworks. As to the classification of middle-income countries based on per capita income, the Secretary-General recalled resolution 64/208 [YUN 2009, p. 793], in which the Assembly noted that national averages referring to criteria such as per capita income might not be sufficient for understanding the particularities of middle-income countries. To that end, he suggested developing a more refined classification system for determining the development status of countries, incorporating some of the elements used to define the least developed countries, and the different levels of market access. Given the increasing importance of middle-income countries for the global economic and social situation, the Secretary-General invited Member States to consider his previous recommendation on the subject [YUN 2011, p. 793] for the establishment of a high-level panel or an ad hoc working group to elaborate the appropriate framework for tackling the development challenges of those countries.

**Communication.** On 10 October [A/C.2/68/S], Costa Rica transmitted to the Secretary-General the “San José Declaration,” adopted at the High-level Conference on the theme “Challenges for sustainable development and international cooperation in middle-income countries: the role of Networks for Prosperity” (San José, Costa Rica, 12–14 June), held under the auspices of the Government of Costa Rica and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Conference brought together high-level representatives from over 70 countries, including ministers, policy makers, experts, and private sector and civil society representatives.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/440/Add.3], adopted resolution 68/222 without vote [agenda item 21 (c)].

**Development cooperation with middle-income countries**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Reaffirming its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling its resolutions 63/223 of 19 December 2008, 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 66/212 of 22 December 2011,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held in Madrid on 1 and 2 March 2007, San Salvador on 3 and 4 October 2007, Windhoek from 4 to 6 August 2008 and San José from 12 to 14 June 2013,

Noting the regional conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held in Cairo on 11 and 12 March 2008, Minsk on 16 and 17 May 2013 and Amman on 23 May 2013,

Emphasizing that middle-income countries must take primary responsibility for their own development and that their national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of middle-income countries, while taking into account their specific national conditions,

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universality, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Emphasizing that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should be able to respond to the varying development needs of programme countries, including the development needs of middle-income countries, and should be aligned with their national development plans and strategies in accordance with its mandates, keeping in mind the needs of the least developed countries,

Noting that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries and that, despite notable reductions in poverty, middle-income countries are still home to the majority of the world’s people living in poverty and inequalities remain,

Recognizing that high degrees of inequality may contribute to vulnerability in middle-income countries and constrain sustainable development in many of those countries, and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable,

Stressing that middle-income countries continue to face particular challenges related to, inter alia, job creation, the diversification and transformation of their economies and access to international markets and, in this regard, that efforts to create a national enabling environment for development should be complemented by a global enabling environment,
Recognizing the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and acknowledging the significant role that the United Nations system has played and should continue to play in this regard,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Recalling the resolve of Member States to enhance and strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, the broadening of the tax base and the effective combating of tax evasion and capital flight, and reiterating that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Acknowledges the efforts made and successes achieved by many middle-income countries to eradicate poverty and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as their significant contribution to global and regional development and economic stability;
3. Expresses concern that some middle-income countries are highly indebted and face increased challenges to their long-term debt sustainability;
4. Acknowledges that identifying structural gaps can improve the understanding of development needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries;
5. Requests the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria;
6. Also requests the United Nations development system, in particular the funds and programmes, in accordance with their respective mandates, and in the context of their respective strategic frameworks and within their existing budgets, to provide better focused support to middle-income countries and to improve coordination and exchange of experiences with other international organizations, international financial institutions and regional organizations in this field, as appropriate;
7. Welcomes the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries, in particular the financial, technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support being provided by middle-income countries, particularly to the least developed countries, through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system to continue its ongoing efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;
8. Encourages developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;
9. Recognizes the importance of the private sector as well as the role of public-private partnerships in meeting the challenges of sustainable development for middle-income countries and other developing countries;
10. Also recognizes that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that regard underlines the importance of international support, through various forms, that is well aligned with national priorities to address the development needs of middle-income countries, including through capacity-building;
11. Acknowledges that official development assistance is still essential for a number of middle-income countries and that it has a role to play in targeted areas, taking into account the needs and domestic resources of these countries;
12. Also acknowledges that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;
13. Encourages giving appropriate consideration to the diverse development challenges of middle-income countries in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;
14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, that also looks further into the development challenges of middle-income countries, including through, inter alia, measurements that take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and development, and that provides recommendations and proposals to ensure efficient, effective, better focused and better coordinated cooperation with middle-income countries, and decides to include in its provisional agenda, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”.

Development through partnerships

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/223 [YUN 2011, p. 794], the Secretary-General, in August, submitted a report [A/68/326] on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and relevant partners, in particular the private sector. The report stated that progress on implementing the Assembly’s recommendations contained in that resolution had contributed to a more United Nations strategic approach to engaging with business partners and the design of more innovative and impactful part-
ships. At the system level, the United Nations had garnered high-level support within the Organization and among private sector leaders for more effective collaboration; developed and shared information on partnership tools; and provided leadership in generating business commitments for helping to solve development problems. Some agencies, funds and programmes were becoming increasingly acute at tailoring private sector partnership models for achieving specific goals and scaling up successful efforts for achieving their missions. Emerging trends, such as converging UN-business interests, exploring innovations in partnership models and technology, engaging with new partners in growing economies, and synchronizing global and local goals and partnership models, were setting the stage for improved means of collaborating with the private sector. In addition, the growth and evolution of the Global Compact [YUN 2000, p.989] and its local networks were creating new opportunities for engaging with the private sector at the country level. To ensure that the United Nations continued to build on that progress, a number of challenges had to be addressed. The United Nations had to continue to push forward with new, improved and diversified forms of collaboration with the private sector; take advantage of impactful partnership opportunities that arose from new trends; shift from a risk-averse to a more risk-managed approach; align and scale up corporate efforts to drive business action and partnerships on a massive scale; strengthen Global Compact local networks and global issues platforms; increase the number of companies globally committed to embedding universal principles into their operations; and ensure that corporate commitments to action were transparent and accountable. Global Compact local networks had to stimulate greater activities locally, promote diversified participation, balance global leadership with local ownership and facilitate knowledge-sharing and new partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector. The United Nations had to also continue efforts to overcome operational challenges hindering more effective UN-business partnerships.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/445], adopted resolution 68/234 without vote [agenda item 26].

Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners

The General Assembly,


Recalling also the outcome documents 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”, and of the special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

Recalling further the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010, particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underscoring the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and civil society, which respect and support, as appropriate, the core values and principles of the United Nations, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries through responsible business practices, such as respecting the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and taking action, including by mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development, and to realizing the internationally agreed development goals in developing countries,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings, and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policies premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, foundations and academia, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and recalling also that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development
efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full employment and social integration.

Recognizing also the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his report to the Human Rights Council that the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector be updated to ensure their full alignment with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, acknowledged the roles and contributions of civil society, the scientific and technological community and non-governmental organizations, as well as other relevant international organizations, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, in advancing sustainable development,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development also acknowledged that the implementation of sustainable development would depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors, and recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development supported national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, including the important tool of public-private partnerships,

Recognizing the contributions of all relevant partners, including the private sector, in fostering stability and supporting recovery by creating job opportunities, advancing economic development, as well as infrastructure development, and, as appropriate, contributing to trust, reconciliation and security.

Noting that the financial and economic crisis, inter alia, has demonstrated the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, social protection floors and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the need for a global consensus on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustainable economic development, and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of such a consensus,

Recognizing that a socially responsible private sector can contribute to the promotion of children’s rights and education through relevant initiatives such as the Children’s Rights and Business Principles and the Framework for Business Engagement in Education,

Recognizing also the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and noting the establishment of partnerships at the field level entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Recognizing further the unique position of the United Nations as a builder of bridges among Member States and all stakeholders, and stressing that the inputs from other stakeholders should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector, in accordance with its mandate from the General Assembly, to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;

2. Stresses that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

3. Also stresses the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

4. Further stresses that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

5. Emphasizes the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing and ensuring enforcement of the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks in accordance with national legislation and development priorities, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector, as appropriate;

6. Recognizes the vital role that the private sector plays in development, including through engaging in various partnership models and by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies, offering technical vocational training activities and stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with due consideration for non-discrimination, gender equality and women’s empowerment, while bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies;

7. Also recognizes the importance of giving due consideration to the various contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to the intergovernmental process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard takes note of the important role that the Global Compact Local Networks have played in gathering input from businesses on a post-2015 development framework and promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development through, inter alia, the exercise of corporate social responsibility;

8. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to improve collaboration of the United Nations with all relevant partners, including the private sector, and to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing the results achieved through partnerships, and acknowledges the importance of continued consultations with Member States;
9. Also welcomes the commitment of the Secretary-General to continuing to retain the integrity and unique role of the United Nations Global Compact;

10. Notes with appreciation the initiatives of the Secretary-General, including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Every Woman, Every Child initiative, the Global Education First Initiative, the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative and the Global Pulse initiative;

11. Invites the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations, as reflected in the Charter and other relevant conventions and treaties, and that commit to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

12. Encourages the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach which places greater emphasis on transparency, coherence, impact, accountability and due diligence, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, in collaboration with funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities and mechanisms, as appropriate:
   (a) To improve the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, including from a gender perspective;
   (b) To disclose the partners, contributions and matching funds for all relevant partnerships, including at the country level;
   (c) To strengthen due diligence measures that can safeguard the reputation of the Organization and ensure confidence-building;
   (d) To ensure that these elements are coherently reflected in relevant system-wide reports;

14. Underscores, in this context, the importance of integrity measures as taken and advocated by the United Nations Global Compact;

15. Requests the United Nations Global Compact to promote the Women’s Empowerment Principles and to encourage the Global Compact Local Networks to create awareness of the many ways in which business can promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community;

16. Acknowledges the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, encourages companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle, encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building, and welcomes in this context the collaboration of the United Nations Global Compact with the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

18. Encourages the international community to strengthen global partnerships for the integration and implementation in partnerships of the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization and the call for action on youth employment, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

19. Stresses the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities through partnerships, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses;

20. Encourages the private sector and the Global Compact Local Networks to join the United Nations Global Compact ‘Business for Peace’ platform and to seek to maximize the beneficial contributions to peace and development while minimizing the risks of negative impacts on both business and society in conflict-affected countries;

21. Notes with appreciation the convening of the annual United Nations Private Sector Forum, which, in 2013, focused on unique opportunities and challenges in Africa;

22. Also notes with appreciation the introduction of the private sector track at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011;

23. Further notes with appreciation the Corporate Sustainability Forum, which was held during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

24. Recognizes the work of the Global Compact Local Networks, as well as the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level and the Global Compact Local Networks, to support, as appropriate and in a manner complementary to existing networks, the coordination and application of global partnerships locally;

25. Also recognizes that the Global Compact Local Networks provide an avenue for diffusing United Nations values and principles and facilitating partnerships with business on a broad scale;

26. Acknowledges the establishment of the United Nations private sector focal points network, promoting greater coherence and capacity-building within the Organization on activities involving business and disseminating innovations in engagement across the system, as well as the holding of annual meetings of United Nations system private sector focal points, which remain important forums for the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovations in partnerships with the private sector;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a concise report, in the most cost-efficient and effective manner, on the implementation of the present resolution and on specific progress, including from a gender perspective, on integrity measures, on transparency, on the strengthening of due diligence measures, on the improvement and implementation of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, on disclosure of partners, contributions and matching funds, including at the country level, and on the strengthening of the Global Compact Local Networks.
Happiness and well-being

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/309 [YUN 2011, p. 796], the Secretary-General in January submitted a note [A/67/697] on happiness: towards a holistic approach to development. The note presented initiatives undertaken by Member States and UN entities on happiness and well-being that were implemented at the national, regional and global levels; provided an update on the state of research on happiness and well-being; and focused on possible policy implications.

Efforts were under way at the international and regional levels to measure well-being, including the Gallup World Poll, the World Values Survey, the European Social Survey, the Eurobarometer, the AsiaBarometer and the Latinobarómetro, and national surveys in many countries, including Bhutan, Italy, Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, and others. While until recently, time-series data on subjective well-being came from high-income countries only, happiness had risen steadily in low-income and middle-income countries. Although people understood happiness and well-being differently across cultures, comparing well-being was becoming easier due to a growing availability of internationally comparable measures and their likely correlates. Surveys indicated that an overall sense of security, including job security, strong family and friendship networks, as well as freedom of expression and other factors had a strong impact on people’s well-being. Moreover, policy interventions were needed to ensure high employment, a high quality of work, strong community with high levels of trust and respect, participatory governance, improved physical and mental health care, support for family life and high-quality education for all.

The Secretary-General encouraged Governments to recognize that gross domestic product (GDP) was not the only indicator of well-being; integrate economic and social policies better; develop specific policies for environmental protection; and develop well-being indicators to guide their policy design and monitoring, in line with sustainable development objectives.

Human security

In December [A/68/685], the Secretary-General, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 66/290 [YUN 2012, p. 778], submitted a report on human security. Based on contributions by Member States, regional organizations, the UN system, academic and research institutions, and non-governmental organizations, the report provided an overview of experiences and lessons learned on the application of human security. The examples presented highlighted the centrality of human security as a universal framework to respond to a wide range of challenges and opportunities in the twenty-first century, and documented the need for people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented solutions that focused efforts on advancing the interconnected pillars of peace and security, development and human rights. They also illustrated the value of the human security approach in reducing the likelihood of conflicts, overcoming obstacles to sustainable development and promoting a life of dignity for all. A growing consensus was emerging on the added value of the human security approach and its contribution to the work of the United Nations.

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security played an important role in providing resources for projects that brought concrete and sustainable benefits to people and their Governments.

To further consolidate those lessons and to mainstream human security in UN system activities, the Secretary-General requested the Assembly to take note of the lessons learned; encourage the application of human security at the regional, national and subnational levels; request the Secretary-General to promote the mainstreaming of human security into UN system activities; consider human security as an overarching framework in the post-2015 development agenda; urge Member States to provide financial support to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security; and invite the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly every two years on progress made towards the mainstreaming of human security in UN activities and the lessons learned.

Sustainable development

In 2013, various UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development considered the implementation of the outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780], the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], particularly the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]—and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 792].

Follow-up to UN Conference on Sustainable Development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782], in which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want” [ibid.], the Secretary-General in May submitted a report [A/68/79-E/2013/69] on mainstreaming of the
three dimensions of sustainable development in the UN system—economic, social and environmental. The report took stock of how the three dimensions were integrated in the work of the UN system; highlighted the successes and challenges, with a view to identifying lessons to strengthen UN system support to Member States, as a preliminary stocktaking; and highlighted the work ahead.

The report found that sustainable development had grown from theory to good practice, but the impact of UN system interventions had not been systematically captured to aid institutional learning. The breadth of what sustainable development meant for the full range of UN system activities had not yet been fully grasped. The report identified key building blocks for the further integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including commitment at the highest level of the UN system bolstered by coherent intergovernmental guidance; stronger coordination and policy coherence; accountability and transparency; adequate institutional support within the UN system; building analytical capacities, new competencies and tools to support developing countries; a system of continuous learning and improvements in practice; and mobilization and allocation of resources to drive sustainable development.

The Secretary-General recommended a road map for accelerating the integration of the three dimensions, which would provide a useful framework for action and could involve recommendations by the Environment Management Group. He further recommended that, as part of its ongoing review, the United Nations Development Group ensure that the guidelines for the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks were aligned with sustainable development principles and supportive of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. A dialogue with partner Governments would be important, since United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks were planning frameworks shared with Governments and were developed in response to key development plans.

Report of High-level Panel. On 30 May [A/67/890], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly President the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda appointed by the Secretary-General in 2012 in fulfilment of the mandate given him at the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Summit [YUN 2010, p. 813]. The Panel, which comprised 27 members and was co-chaired by President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, was established to make recommendations for further steps to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015. The report, entitled “A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development”, concluded that the post-2015 agenda needed to be driven by five transformative shifts: leave no one behind; put sustainable development at the core; transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and forge a new global partnership. To translate the five changes into specific priorities and actions, the Panel proposed an illustrative framework containing goals and targets to show how the transformative changes could be expressed in measurable terms.

Ten-year framework. On 16 September, by decision 67/564, the General Assembly noted the establishment of the 10-member board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, and welcomed the membership of the board, as nominated by the five UN regional groups and listed in the annex to that decision. It decided that the members of the board should serve for an initial term of two years effective from the date of adoption of the decision, and that regional groups should be authorized to nominate new members of the board after the completion of the initial two-year term of the board, or in the event of the resignation of a member, and for subsequent terms, upon notification of the Assembly President and the board by the relevant regional group. The Assembly requested that the board hold its first meeting no later than October 2013.

Open working group on sustainable development goals. On 22 January, by decision 67/555, the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided to establish the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with paragraph 248 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 782]; and welcomed the membership of the Working Group as designated by the five UN regional groups and listed in the annex to that decision.

Communication. On 19 July [A/67/941], the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals submitted to the Assembly President a progress report on its work at its first four sessions (14–15 March; 17–19 April; 22–24 May; and 17–19 June). At its first session, the Open Working Group heard the introduction by the Secretariat of the initial input of the Secretary-General to the Group [YUN 2012, p. 809], and conducted a general discussion and an interactive discussion on the sustainable development goals. At its second to fourth sessions, the Open Working Group considered conceptualizing the sustainable development goals; poverty eradication; food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought; water and sanitation; employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture; and health and population dynamics.
Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

On 21 June, by decision 67/559, the General Assembly decided to establish an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing; welcomed the membership of 30 experts in the committee, as nominated by the five UN regional groups, which were listed in annex I to that decision; decided that regional groups should be authorized to appoint replacements for those experts from their group who ceased to be members of the committee, effective upon notification of the President of the General Assembly and the committee by the relevant regional group; requested the Secretary-General to provide the support necessary for the work of the committee until the completion of its work in 2014; and requested the committee hold its first meeting no later than August 2013.

Committee sessions. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), at its first session (28–30 August, New York), adopted the provisional agenda [A/AC.282/2013/1] for the whole duration of its work; took note of the proposed programme of work for its subsequent sessions; and approved its modalities of work. ICESDF also agreed to organize its work in three thematic clusters, namely assessing financing needs, mapping current flows and emerging trends, and the impact of domestic and international environments; mobilizing resources and their effective use; and institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance issues. On 30 August, a briefing was convened by the Co-Chairs on the progress of the committee’s work in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

At its second session (2–6 December, New York), ICESDF organized an interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Commission on Sustainable Development

Conclusion of the work of the Commission

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2013/19 [draft: E/2013/L.38] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993, by which it established the Commission on Sustainable Development, and its subsequent relevant resolutions and decisions relating to the mandate of the Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on the institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, 67/203 of 21 December 2012 on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, 1. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to conclude its work at its twentieth session, on 20 September 2013, which should be short and procedural, and to transmit its final report to the Economic and Social Council on that day; 2. Decides to abolish the Commission with effect from the conclusion of its twentieth session, on 20 September 2013.

Also on 24 July, the Council, further to its decision 2011/243 [YUN 2011, p. 798], approved the revised provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (decision 2013/234).

Twentieth session of the Commission

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/19 (above), the Commission on Sustainable Development held its twentieth session in New York (20 September) [E/2013/29-E/CN.17/2013/4]. The meeting adopted the revised provisional agenda. The Commission held a high-level dialogue on the agenda item “Lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development and the way forward and conclusion of the work of the Commission”. The Chair’s summary of the key points of the dialogue was annexed to the Commission’s report. The Commission was informed of Council resolution 2013/19 requesting that it conclude its work at its twentieth session and transmit its final report, and of the decision to abolish the Commission effective 20 September. The Commission adopted its draft final report and recommended a decision to the Council for adoption.

On 16 December, by decision 2013/263, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session.

High-level political forum on sustainable development

Format and organizational aspects

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811], the Secretary-General in February submitted a report [A/67/757] on lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development (csd). Its purpose was to inform the negotiations of the Assembly on defining the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum established by the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development “The future we want” [YUN 2012, p. 782], to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development.
The report showed that the Commission had played an important role in keeping sustainable development high on the international agenda, thus demonstrating the importance of having a high-level body on that issue. The report also highlighted several shortcomings in the Commission’s work, such as its lack of success in fully integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into its work and outcomes; its lack of impact on the implementation of sustainable development policies; and its cumbersome decision-making processes and unclear outcomes. The Commission’s review of and impact on the implementation of sustainable development remained weak, and the Commission was not able to respond with sufficient flexibility to new and emerging issues. Its monitoring and review of the progress in the agreements related to the means of implementation—finance, technology and capacity-building—were also judged as inadequate.

The report also discussed the lessons learned from the Commission under three groupings: reviewing and monitoring progress on the implementation of Agenda 21 [YUN 1992, p. 672] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation [YUN 2002, p. 821] and related outcomes (the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 1994, p. 783] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 2005, p. 946]; agenda-setting: development policy recommendations; and the engagement and participation of major groups and multi-stakeholder partnerships. In outlining the possible implications of the lessons learned from the Commission for the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum, the report stated that the issues of integration, implementation, coherence, coordination and agenda needed to be central to any discussion on the high-level forum if it were to add value and engage all relevant actors needed to implement sustainable development policies at all levels.

The Secretary-General concluded that the lessons learned from the 20 years of the work of the Commission should be the starting point for giving final shape to its replacement, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through the setting of a focused agenda, its working methods and the related challenge of energized and high-level engagement. As part of the institutional framework for sustainable development, the forum needed a clear niche, strongly linked to the follow-up of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and other related conferences and summits, while at the same time helping mainstream sustainable development in the work of the UN system. To overcome the shortcomings and build on the strengths of CSOs, the forum needed to maintain a strong focus on implementation at all levels, including sharing of experiences, furthering integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and engaging with the economic and social policymaking communities more intensively.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 9 July [meeting 91], the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/290 [draft: A/67/L.72] without vote [agenda item 20 (a)].

**Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development**

The General Assembly,


Emphasizing the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development, which should be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved; address the shortcomings of the current system; take into account all relevant implications; promote synergies and coherence; seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the United Nations system and reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements,

Recalling the decision contained in paragraph 84 of the outcome document of the Conference to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would subsequently replace the Commission, as well as the decision that the high-level political forum should follow on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and its central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, and recognizing the need for it to further integrate sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Reaffirming also the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, within its mandate under the Charter, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy
for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the political declaration on Africa’s development needs and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,

Recalling the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling also its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development;

2. Decides that the high-level political forum, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;

3. Also decides that the meetings of the forum shall be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council;

4. Further decides that all meetings of the forum shall provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies;

5. Decides that, in all meetings of the forum, every effort shall be made to reach consensus;

6. Also decides that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly:
   (a) Shall be convened at the level of Heads of State and Government;
   (b) Shall be convened every four years by the President of the Assembly for a period of two days, at the beginning of the session of the Assembly, as well as on other occasions, on an exceptional basis, upon a decision by the Assembly;
   (c) Shall be chaired by the President of the Assembly;
   (d) Shall result in a concise negotiated political declaration to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly;

7. Further decides that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council:
   (a) Shall be convened annually by the President of the Council for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment to be held in the framework of the substantive session of the Council, building on and subsequently replacing the annual ministerial review as from 2016;
   (b) Shall be chaired by the President of the Council;
   (c) Shall have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the activities of the Council and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda;
   (d) Shall follow up and review progress in the implementation of all the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies, promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;
   (e) Shall take into account the work of the Development Cooperation Forum, as well as other activities of the Council relating to the integration and implementation of sustainable development;
   (f) Shall benefit from regional preparatory processes;
   (g) Shall result in a negotiated ministerial declaration for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly;

8. Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews:
   (a) Shall be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities;
   (b) Shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;
   (c) Shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;
   (d) Shall replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews of the Council, building upon the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006, as well as experiences and lessons learned in this context;

9. Also decides that all meetings convened under the auspices of the General Assembly shall operate under the rules of procedure of the main committees of the Assembly, as applicable, unless otherwise provided in the present resolution, and that all meetings convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall operate under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, as applicable, except as otherwise provided in the present resolution;
10. Underlines that the arrangement established by the Economic and Social Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in Council decision 1995/201 of 8 February 1995 shall apply to the meetings of the forum held under the auspices of the Council, and that the arrangements established by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 65/276 of 3 May 2011 shall apply to the meetings of the forum held under the auspices of the Assembly;

11. Decides that the meetings of the forum shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments and that they will recognize the particular challenges facing the middle-income countries in achieving sustainable development, and reiterates that the efforts of middle-income countries should be adequately supported by the international community, in various forms, taking into account the needs of those countries and their capacity to mobilize domestic resources;

12. Encourages States to ensure that their participation in the meetings of the forum reflect the balanced integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development from their national perspectives;

13. Acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

14. Stresses the need for the forum to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions, and in this regard decides that the forum should be open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic and Social Council decision 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, which shall be applicable to the forum;

15. Decides, in this regard, that, while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed:

(a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;

(b) To have access to all official information and documents;

(c) To intervene in official meetings;

(d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;

(e) To make recommendations;

(f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat;

16. Encourages the major groups identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development, to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at the global, regional and national levels, in a way that ensures effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization;

17. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization, to contribute within their respective mandates to the discussions of the forum;

18. Emphasizes that the forum shall provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development and that the agenda of all meetings of the high-level political forum shall be focused, while allowing flexibility to address new and emerging issues;

19. Reaffirms that the forum shall contribute to the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, and in this regard invites the forum to take into account the contributions and work of relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the social, economic and environmental fields;

20. Decides that the forum shall strengthen the science-policy interface by examining documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments, enhancing evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contributing to the strengthening of ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries, and requests the forum to consider, in 2014, the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, based on a proposal of the Secretary-General reflecting the views and recommendations of Member States, and relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee for Development Policy;

21. Also decides that the forum may provide recommendations to the board of the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, as well as to the United Nations Environment Programme, as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, taking into account their reports;

22. Requests the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate with the Bureau of the Council and with the bureaus of the relevant committees of the Assembly to organize the activities of the forum so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

23. Decides that the forum shall be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, multilateral financial and trade institutions, the secretariats of the three Rio conventions and other relevant treaty bodies and international organizations within their respective mandates;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to carry over all the remaining funds from the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development to a voluntary trust fund of the forum in order to facilitate the
participation of developing countries, the least developed countries, representatives of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the work of the forum and to support the preparations of the forum, and in this regard invites Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the forum;

25. Decides that travel expenses for one representative of each of the least developed countries shall be paid from the regular budget of the United Nations for participation in all formal meetings of the forum;

26. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council abolish the Commission on Sustainable Development effective upon the conclusion of its twentieth session, to be held prior to the first meeting of the forum, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012;

27. Decides that the first meeting of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly shall have an inaugural character, requests the President of the Assembly to convene the meeting at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session for the duration of one day, and decides that, on an extraordinary basis and only for the purpose of that meeting, the outcome of the meeting shall consist of the summary of the President;

28. Also decides to consider at its sixty-ninth session the need to convene a meeting of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2015 in relation to the launch of the post-2015 development agenda;

29. Further decides to review at its seventy-third session the format and the organizational aspects of the forum, unless otherwise decided;

30. Emphasizes that the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 should take into account the present resolution in order to avoid duplication.

First meeting of high-level political forum

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290 (see p. 782), the President of the Assembly convened the inaugural meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (24 September, New York), under the overall theme “Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda.” The meeting held three leaders’ dialogues under the themes: “High-level political forum: from vision to action”, “Global partnerships for development to create jobs and improve sustainable lifestyles”; and “Mapping the way forward for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.” The meeting was attended by Heads of State and Government and other high-ranking officials, including ministers, observers, members of major groups and other stakeholders, as well as high-level representatives of UN system organizations from the social, economic and environmental fields, including the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund) and other relevant intergovernmental organizations.

President’s summary. The Assembly President, in a summary of the proceedings of the first meeting of the high-level political forum [A/68/588], reported that leaders and other participants reaffirmed the need to act on the transformational vision contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (YUN 2012, p. 782), which identified poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The establishment of the high-level political forum was a step towards achieving that vision. The lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development had to be the starting point for giving shape and content to the high-level political forum, which would deliver more effectively on the aspirations and endeavours of the Commission. The forum would provide a platform for leaders to reflect current priorities, and to review sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda in an integrative and holistic manner. In its decision entitled “Mapping the way forward,” leaders, in elaborating the post-2015 agenda, called for a coherent approach integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view towards a single framework and set of goals, while also promoting peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all. The meeting welcomed the progress achieved by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (see p. 781) and the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism. The next meeting of the forum would mobilize political commitment and support for the completion of the work of those processes by September 2014. Participants anticipated consideration of the scope and methodology of the Global Sustainable Development Report at the next meeting of the forum, to be held in 2014, and underscored that the forum’s decision on “the way forward” should be guided by the need to promote a data revolution, in the context of the post-2015 development. They noted the announcement by the Secretary-General of the establishment of a scientific advisory board hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and looked forward to its involvement in the forum’s work.

In July [A/67/927], the Secretary-General submitted a statement on programme budget implication relating to the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, requesting an additional appropriation of $741,800, under section 9, Economic and Social Affairs, of the proposed 2014–2015 programme budget.

In September [A/68/365], the Secretary-General submitted revised estimates in that amount resulting from the decisions contained in Assembly resolution 67/290. He requested the Assembly to approve the proposals, representing a charge against the contingency fund for the 2014–2015 biennium.
ACABQ report. In December [A/68/7/Add.14], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) stated that it had no objection to the additional resource requirement of $754,600 estimated by the Secretary-General.

On 27 December, the General Assembly, in section XIV of resolution 68/247 A (see p. 1458) on special subjects relating to the programme budget for the 2014–2015 biennium, endorsed the ACABQ conclusions and recommendations and decided to appropriate the amount requested.

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

In August [A/68/321], in response to General Assembly resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The report provided information on progress made in implementing the resolution, which called, in particular, for coherence, synergy and mutual support among follow-up processes to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780]. It showed that progress was achieved in follow-up to the Conference through the work of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 780); the creation of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (see p. 781); and the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ibid.). The report highlighted the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in reviewing the overall follow-up to the Conference and progress in sustainable development and new and emerging issues, and which would be the main platform for ensuring coherence and coordination in the post-2015 development agenda. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly call on Governments, the UN system, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to fully engage in and support the work of the high-level political forum; make it a dedicated platform for implementation of sustainable development commitments, redoubling efforts to maintain a strong focus on implementation at all levels; ensure that the forum followed up to the processes and outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development; and enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development by engaging with the economic, social and environmental policy-making communities more intensively and in a more integrative way; propose themes and areas for discussion; invite the forum to determine how best it could deliver on those objectives through the choice of its thematic focus and by ensuring that its policy guidance drew from solid reviews of implementation; and call on the UN system to make further efforts to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its work. The Secretary-General would report on progress in that regard to the high-level forum, including by proposing a road map and recommendations on how the UN system could make rapid advance towards that end.

Facilitation mechanism

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811], the Secretary-General submitted, in August [A/68/310], a report on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, which complemented the analysis, findings and recommendations contained in his report on options for a technology facilitation mechanism [YUN 2012, p. 810]. It proposed additional background information and details on the topic and reported on the deliberations at the workshops on the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies in developing countries that were convened by the Assembly President in April and May, as well as on written inputs received from Member States and the UN system. In its review of the understanding of and debate on technology facilitation as it arose from the workshops, the report revealed that technology needs had not been mapped systematically, and views varied significantly as to whether the international programmes and mechanisms to assist in terms of capacity-building corresponded to needs. The Secretary-General presented three sets of recommendations; initiatives that could be acted on without institutional reform; actions that could be added on a voluntary basis; and a set of more comprehensive and ambitious initiatives. In the first set, he recommended conducting broad examinations of needs, gaps and achievements in the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies; strengthening capacity to help all countries in converging to best practice in data availability according to internationally comparable methodologies; fostering a global reporting system covering all multilateral and bilateral capacity-building activities; mobilizing UN support for the agreed technology bank for least developed countries; and facilitating intergovernmental dialogue on the transfer of publicly owned or funded technologies. In the second set, the Secretary-General proposed promoting voluntary national peer reviews of clean and environmentally sound technology needs, as well as options and outcomes in addressing them; and a sustainable development goal and/or targets in the area of technology. Recommenda-
tions in the third set included the creation of a forum within the United Nations on how best to facilitate international technology cooperation for sustainable development and a UN global technology facilitation mechanism; understanding the role of intellectual property with respect to the development and transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and exploring the basis for developing a special international intellectual property rights regime for a range of technologies relevant to sustainable development.

Intergenerational solidarity

As requested in the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782], the Secretary-General, in August [A/68/322], submitted a report on intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations. The report evaluated how the UN system could address the need for intergenerational solidarity and analysed how the issue was embedded in the concept of sustainable development and existing treaties, declarations, resolutions and intergovernmental decisions. It also reviewed the conceptual and ethical underpinnings of intergenerational solidarity and future generations and how the issue had been taken into consideration in policymaking in a variety of institutions at the national level. According to the report, responsibility towards future generations was a relatively new concept in the legal and political arenas, and advances in science and technology had driven home the realization that future generations were vulnerable to current acts and policies. Fairness between generations was embedded in the concept of sustainable development, and satisfying the needs of the current generation should not come at the expense of generations to come. Concerns for the needs of future generations therefore fell into the category of intergenerational equity or justice.

The report outlined options for possible models to institutionalize concern for future generations at the United Nations, including the establishment of a high commissioner for future generations as an advocate for intergenerational solidarity. Such an office would undertake research and foster expertise on policy practices, and provide advice on the implementation of intergovernmental commitments. It would not have a field presence or receive reports from Member States, unless on a voluntary basis, and would require adequate financing to ensure the quality of its services. Other options included the appointment of a special envoy of the Secretary-General for future generations, serving as a global independent advocate for intergenerational solidarity, with particular concern for the welfare of future generations; the inclusion in the agenda of the high-level political forum, as a recurring item, the issue of intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations; and the promotion of intergenerational solidarity and future generations within the UN system through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its mechanisms. The Secretary-General suggested that Member States invite the high-level political forum to consider, at its second meeting in 2014, the proposed institutional arrangements and other suitable mechanisms to promote intergenerational solidarity for the achievement of sustainable development, taking into account the needs of future generations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/438/Add.1], adopted resolution 68/210 without vote [agenda item 19 (a)].

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,


Recalling also its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Reaffirming the commitment to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming also other internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields since 1992, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Reaffirming the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women’s empowerment and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development,

Recalling the decision of the Economic and Social Council to abolish the Commission on Sustainable Development with effect from the conclusion of its twentieth and last session, held on 20 September 2013,


2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

3. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, and of the report of the Secretary-General on intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations;

4. Recalls the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizes its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

5. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, from extrabudgetary resources, and invites Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the funding of the activities of the Decade;

6. Welcomes the decision contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to convene, in 2014, a third international conference on small island developing States, and in this regard renews its encouragement to the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support to ensure the success of the conference and its preparatory process;

7. Reaffirms its resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, welcomes the inaugural meeting of the Forum, held under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013, and takes note of the summary of the meeting in the note by the President of the General Assembly;

8. Requests the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the Assembly and with the Bureau of the Council to organize the activities of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and encourages broad consultations on the organization of the meeting of the Forum under the auspices of the Council in 2014;

9. Welcomes the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledges with appreciation the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism, and urges these pro-
cesses to complete their work in a comprehensive, balanced and expeditious manner by September 2014;

10. Stresses the need for synergy, coherence and mutual support among all these processes and other processes that are also relevant for the post-2015 development agenda;

11. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies and on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, welcomes the workshops at which these issues were discussed and takes note of their summaries, decides in this regard to hold a series of four one-day structured dialogues, supported by the United Nations system and enabling the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, universities and research institutions, the private sector and civil society, to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by identifying and addressing, where appropriate, fragmentation, synergies, areas of duplication and opportunities for cooperation between existing mechanisms and processes, thus improving overall coherence and enhancing interlinkages, identifying and addressing gaps throughout the full technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, transfer and diffusion, fostering innovation and promoting an enabling environment at all levels, while respecting the mandates of existing institutions, frameworks and processes, and also decides that the dialogues will result in a summary of the discussions and recommendations emerging therefrom, including on the possible modalities and organization of such a mechanism, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and for consideration and appropriate action by the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, with the aim of reaching a conclusion in this regard;

12. Welcomes the establishment of the 10-member board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, recalls the decision that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development may provide recommendations to the board and the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking into account their reports, also recalls paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/203, including its decision to review the arrangements to designate the Economic and Social Council and the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and the secretariat as elaborated in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, and in this regard decides to review the ad interim arrangement at its sixty-ninth session, after the meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2014;

13. Recalls its decision that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development shall strengthen the science-policy interface by examining documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments, enhancing evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contributing to the strengthening of ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries, and also recalls its request that the Forum consider, in 2014, the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, based on a proposal by the Secretary-General, reflecting the views and recommendations of Member States and relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee for Development Policy;

14. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system, reiterates the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”.

On 27 December (decision 68/550), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session.

Agricultural technology for development

In response to General Assembly resolution 66/195 [YUN 2011, p. 803], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report (A/68/308) on agricultural technology for development, which examined the status and trends of agriculture technologies. The report considered the broader context of and challenges to sustainable food production, including land degradation, competition for land, loss of biodiversity, natural resources management, climate change and the role and needs of small-scale farmers, including rural women. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, public and private investments in advanced component technologies had increased farm-level productivity through the development and successful dissemination of hybrid seeds and the introduction of irrigation and inorganic inputs, such as synthetic pesticides and nitrogen fertilizer. The resulting agricultural growth and increased agricultural productivity at the farm level spurred a significant reduction in poverty rates; however, the adoption of agricultural technology in developing countries.
was limited mainly to cash crops and exports for animal feed, thus failing to translate growth into nutritional improvements across the board.

In his recommendations on the way forward, the Secretary-General stated that effective responses to the challenges posed to food security and nutrition and the sustainability of food systems were based on innovative approaches to the development, transfer, dissemination and deployment of sustainable agricultural practices, particularly on shifts in agricultural investment towards sustainability and increased productivity, both at the farm level and in terms of labour. Multidimensional approaches drawing on agriculture’s multifunctionality were necessary to enhance sustainable productivity and to address inequalities among farming households. The Secretary-General further recommended diversifying away from the three major cereal crops towards other food crops, such as teff, sorghum, millet or vegetables and using sustainable production systems to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change and volatility in commodity markets; strengthening the rights of indigenous communities; mainstreaming gender into agricultural policies; and building the capacity of rural institutions, including through farmer cooperatives. Well-functioning information, monitoring and accountability systems, for example multi-stakeholder assessments at the country level, could help to identify the most vulnerable populations, develop national food security and nutrition strategies and choose actions most appropriate to achieving development goals and targets. As set out in resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782], the reformed Committee on World Food Security was to consider facilitating such country-initiated assessments on sustainable food production, food security and nutrition.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/438], adopted resolution 68/209 by recorded vote (144–1–34) [agenda item 19].

Agricultural technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/195 of 22 December 2011 on agricultural technology for development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling further 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”,

Recalling the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further its resolution 67/228 of 21 December 2012 on agriculture development and food security,

Recalling its resolution 64/136 of 18 December 2009 on cooperatives in social development, in which it proclaimed 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives,

Recalling also its resolution 66/221 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Quinoa, 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 66/222 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Family Farming, 2014,

Recalling the World Summit on Food Security, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and underlining the importance of advancing and implementing agricultural technologies,

Recalling also the outcome of the thirty-eighth (special) session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome on 11 May 2012, at which the Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and the outcome of the thirtyninth session of the Committee, held in Rome from 15 to 20 October 2012,

Welcoming the work of the fortieth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 7 to 11 October 2013, and taking note of its outcome document,

Welcoming also the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a vision for a future free from hunger,

Welcoming further the commitments set out in the Joint Statement on Global Food Security, adopted in L’Aquila, Italy, on 10 July 2009, which focused on sustainable agriculture development,

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document, reaffirming its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, while concerned by the pace of progress to date in achieving those Goals, particularly in countries lagging furthest behind,

Recognizing the beneficial impact that the adoption of agricultural technologies can have for the achievement of food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability,

Taking note 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, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and recognizing the need to continue to work towards fulfilling the commitments made in the Programme of Action,

Stressing the critical role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution to enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining the fact that meaningful progress in agricultural development necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap and ensuring that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, related services and inputs, all the necessary productive resources, including tenure rights and access to land, fisheries and forests as well as to education and training, social services, health care, health services and financial services, and access to and participation in markets,
Recognizing that young people are an asset for sustainable economic growth and that agricultural technology has an essential role to play in facilitating access to agricultural skills for young women and men and in improving the livelihoods of youth.

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society and the private sector in furthering progress in developing countries, in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural technology and in the training of smallholder farmers, in particular rural women.

Considering the increasing need for innovation in agriculture food chains in order to respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, depletion and scarcity of natural resources, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that agricultural research and sustainable agricultural technologies can greatly contribute to agricultural, rural and economic development, adaptation of agriculture and food security and nutrition and help mitigate the negative impact of climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought.

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development;

2. Urges Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination, under mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, and to support national efforts to foster utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, to promote agricultural technology research and access to knowledge and information through suitable communication for development strategies and to enable rural women, as well as men and youth, to increase sustainable agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food and nutritional security;

3. Encourages international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, especially smallholder and family farmers, in particular rural women and youth, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and animal products, to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities and to enhance food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies that take into consideration the specific needs of women, young children and youth;

4. Calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream gender into agricultural policies and projects and to focus on closing the gender gap to achieve equal access for women to labour-saving technologies and agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, decision-making forums and associated agricultural resources to ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of women and the barriers that women face in accessing agricultural inputs and resources;

5. Encourages Governments to develop and implement youth-focused agricultural development projects and programmes, including through training, education and capacity-building, in order to stimulate the interest and the involvement of youth in agriculture;

6. Invites Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, and consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, the growth of agricultural cooperatives through easy access to affordable finance, the adoption of sustainable production techniques, investment in rural infrastructure and irrigation, strengthened marketing mechanisms, access to appropriate risk management instruments and support for the participation of women in economic activities;

7. Underlines the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems, as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems and management practices, such as conservation agriculture, animal disease control and integrated pest management, in order to make agriculture more resilient and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals more tolerant to diseases, pests and environmental stresses, including drought and climate change, in accordance with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

8. Stresses the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, increased promotion of appropriate harvesting practices, agro-food processing and appropriate facilities for the storage and packaging of food;

9. Underlines the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and ensure agricultural productivity, and calls for further efforts to develop and strengthen irrigation facilities and water-saving technology;

10. Notes the ongoing discussions on responsible agricultural investments within the framework of the Committee on World Food Security;

11. Encourages Member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services, including training, capacity-building, infrastructure and extension services, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to include smallholder farmers, in particular rural women, in planning and in taking decisions about making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and practices available and affordable to them;

12. Recognizes the potential of information and communications technologies as tools for improving agricultural productivity, practices and smallholder livelihoods, strengthening agricultural markets and institutions, improving agricultural services, empowering farmer communities and connecting farmers in developing countries to regional and global agricultural markets, and stresses the need to ensure women’s access to information and communication technologies, especially in rural areas;

13. Calls upon Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, notes the positive impact that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can have in this regard, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with a focus on the research and development of technology that is affordable, durable and sustainable and that can be easily used by and disseminated to smallholder farmers, in particular rural women;

14. Requests relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricul-

YUN 2013—6th proof—12 December 2017
tural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways to augment sustainable agriculture and management practices, such as conservation agriculture, and to increase the adaptive capacity of agriculture and the use of agricultural technologies that positively impact the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage and transportation, including in pressing environmental circumstances;

15. **Underlines** the instrumental role of agricultural technology, agricultural research and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of knowledge and practices in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, calls, therefore, upon Member States and encourages relevant international bodies to support sustainable agricultural research and development, and in this regard calls for continued support to the international agricultural research system, including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international organizations and initiatives;

16. **Invites** Member States and other stakeholders to give appropriate consideration to the issue of agricultural technology for development in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

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

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/209:**

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroun, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Greenland, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia.

**Against:** Bolivia.

**Abstaining:** Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

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**Sustainable tourism**

In an August note [A/68/278], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 66/196 [YUN 2011, p. 805], the Secretary-General transmitted the report of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America. Defined as tourism that took into account current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, the Central American Tourism Integration (STICA) secretariat and the tourism authorities of the seven member countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama) had adopted the principles of sustainable tourism defined by UNWTO. STICA also adopted the Global Code of Ethics. Countries of the region had emphasized poverty alleviation through tourism as a key objective in their strategic planning, focusing on strengthening ecotourism, community-based rural tourism and micro and small businesses in the tourism supply chain, in particular the financing, marketing and quality aspects. Community-based cultural tourism was seen as a way of strengthening indigenous communities, while historical and archaeological tourism was regarded as a tool for restoring and conserving those resources. Social tourism for local citizens was being emphasized in El Salvador and Nicaragua. All of the countries proposed major investments in conventional tourism and infrastructure, in accordance with the principle of sustainability. Adaptation to climate change and the associated risks were a growing focus of regional tourism strategies, along with mitigating tourism-related greenhouse gas emissions.

UNWTO found that regional integration in tourism in Central America was successful in areas where individual country initiatives were not cost-effective, especially in areas affected by climate change and security issues. Similarly, the region’s joint marketing efforts were successful where nearby countries had complementary attractions. In areas where countries were competing for market segments with similar offerings, however, integration and joint marketing were ineffective. The report concluded that the activities of Central American countries had relevance for many other countries and subregions, especially those with similar natural and cultural attractions, risks and socioeconomic conditions, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean. The sustainable tourism observatory being established by UNWTO and Honduras could serve as a model. There was a need to replicate successful cases within and outside the region, and consider the policy recommendations of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism in the policy framework for Central American tourism integration.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Commit-
Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter, in particular its resolution 66/196 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on World Tourism, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Istanbul Declaration, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

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

Welcoming the ongoing efforts made by Member States and the United Nations system in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the important role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of quality of life and its contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially in developing countries,

Emphasizing that sustainable tourism in Central America is a cross-cutting issue with close linkages to other sectors, generates trade opportunities and is a fundamental pillar of regional integration and an engine of social and economic development, income, investment and hard currency and therefore contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing that poverty eradication through tourism with a focus on ecotourism, community-based tourism and micro- and small businesses in the tourism supply chain is a key objective in the strategic planning of the Central American countries,

Acknowledging the objectives, efforts and achievements of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production and of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism,

Acknowledging with appreciation the processes called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way, including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the Joint Declaration, the Plan of Action and the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, adopted in San Salvador on 22 July 2011, and the Declaration of the Central American Tourism Council, adopted at its eighty-second meeting, held in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, on 7 July 2011,

Noting the outcomes of the Forum on Tourism, Sustainability and Climate Change in Central America, held from 11 to 13 April 2013 in La Ceiba, Honduras, under the auspices of the World Tourism Organization, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, the Central American Integration System and the Forests of the World organization, among others,

1. Takes note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General, taking into account the reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization;

2. Notes the ongoing efforts of the Governments of Central America, in coordination with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, in the implementation of existing and new programmes designed to launch and promote sustainable tourism throughout the region;

3. Welcomes the adoption of the principles of sustainable tourism by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, conceptualized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council of the World Tourism Organization through its Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria to serve as the framework for tourism development, which are expressed in the strategic plan for sustainable development, 2009–2013, developed by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, capturing the region’s vision of itself as an integrated, sustainable, multi-location destination of high quality;

4. Notes the valuable role of international cooperation with relevant partners in the implementation of various projects aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the region, including by strengthening ecotourism, rural tourism and colonial cities tourism;

5. Also notes the existing joint initiatives designed and implemented to stimulate regional tourism integration, such as the Mayan World regional brand;

6. Welcomes the progress made by the Central American countries in converging on a regional tourism strategy based on conserving the region’s biodiversity and natural and cultural attractions, reducing poverty through employment and entrepreneurial tourism development that emphasizes the micro- and medium-sized enterprises that dominate the industry, addressing climate change and using tourism as a tool to improve the quality of life of the region’s inhabitants;

7. Notes the progress made by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat in promoting an action plan for tourism and climate change, as a component of the regional strategy on climate change, with support from the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, which contemplates actions to reduce vulnerability in the tourism sector and foster climate change adaptation and mitigation;

8. Welcomes the actions taken with the aim of establishing the Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism network in the Americas, which may well serve as a model for the rest of the region and the Americas in using data on sustainable tourism for improving policies and offering capacity-building to enhance the sustainability of destinations;

9. Recognizes the need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building efforts that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity and improve the welfare and livelihoods
of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole;

10. Also recognizes the opportunities for promoting sustainable tourism activities through the programme on sustainable tourism and its component on ecotourism under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;

11. Stresses the need to promote the further development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, to strengthen the development of ecotourism, building on the implementation of the declaration of 2012 as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America, while maintaining the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities and micro- and medium-sized enterprises, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity;

12. Also stresses the need for enhanced support for sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building in developing countries, in order to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

13. Encourages giving appropriate consideration to the issue of sustainable tourism in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

14. Welcomes the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote sustainable tourism worldwide;

15. Invites States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders and the World Tourism Organization to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central American countries for the promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism in the region, in the context of emergency preparedness and mitigation of and response to natural disasters, as well as for capacity-building, in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals by extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population;

16. Encourages the Central American countries, through the Central American Tourism Council and the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, to continue to support sustainable tourism with policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect the natural and cultural heritage, especially their ecosystems and biodiversity, and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments to this end;

17. Also encourages the Central American countries to share their experiences on sustainable tourism aimed at contributing to poverty alleviation for the benefit of all countries;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on developments related to the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

Eradication of poverty

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

In July [A/68/183], the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 67/224 [YUN 2012, p. 815], submitted a report on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), proclaimed by the Assembly in resolution 62/205 [YUN 2007, p. 847]. The report focused on progress and challenges, as well as the main policy measures to reduce poverty, and provided an overview of recent activities undertaken by UN agencies to implement the system-wide Plan of Action for the Second Decade [YUN 2009, p. 869].

According to the report, during the previous five years, despite the economic recession and the volatility of prices, poverty levels reached new lows in all six developing regions. However, progress was uneven and 1.2 billion people were still living on less than $1.25 a day in 2010. Successes in poverty reduction were concentrated in East Asia and the Pacific, with China leading the way. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia had yet to reach the poverty target at the regional level, and while progress in the latter was substantial, Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region in which the number of people living in extreme poverty rose steadily, from 290 million in 2009 to 414 million in 2010. By 2015, the two regions would each constitute about 40 per cent of the developing world’s population living in extreme poverty. With regard to hunger and undernourished populations, there were significant disparities between regions, and some countries had moved further away from the MDGs. While Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean were roughly on track to reach the Goals, the target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger would not be met in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.

For many countries, the key challenges to poverty eradication included high unemployment, widening inequality, and climate change, aggravated by the subdued pace of recovery of the global economy and the contraction in the euro area. As many developed and developing countries were trying to address high levels of indebtedness, austerity measures targeting public expenditure threatened to exacerbate the situation.

In order to overcome the challenges to poverty eradication, Governments needed to develop and implement policies that created social and economic opportunity for all, promoting low-carbon and sustainable solutions to employment creation, inequality, and economic instability.
CHAPTER I: DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

General Assembly Action

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/442/Add.1], adopted resolution 68/226 without vote [agenda item 23 (a)].


The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/224 of 21 December 2012 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, with a main aim of enabling half the number of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and its resolution 63/305 of 9 July 2009, entitled “Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development”,

Taking note with appreciation of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development and also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011 entitled “Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact”,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Recalling also its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, and its outcome document, and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Acknowledging the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also acknowledging the central imperative of poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that there is a need to promote recovery, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

Concerned that, midway into the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Recognizing also that corruption at all levels, including the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, and stressing the need for the return of these funds and assets to their countries of origin,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming also that women make significant contributions to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequality through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing also that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing further that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,
Expressing deep concern that aggregate official development assistance fell in 2012 for the second consecutive year, and calling for the reverse of this decline,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging also that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”;

2. Reaffirms that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. Also reaffirms that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in this regard commits itself to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency;

4. Further reaffirms that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. Calls upon the international community, including Member States, to urgently take measures to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger because of their negative impacts on sustainable development;

6. Emphasizes the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, inter-governmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

7. Reiterates the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. Emphasizes that the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best practices, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

9. Calls upon the international community to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

10. Stresses the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

11. Acknowledges the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities and be operated in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

12. Recognizes the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

13. Reaffirms the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. Welcomes the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Co-operation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results,
and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

15. Recognizes the urgent need to address poverty, hunger, and food security, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production and productivity, including of smallholder producers, in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

16. Encourages Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

17. Recognizes that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

18. Reaffirms the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

19. Also reaffirms that, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 development agenda;

20. Calls upon Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, health care and social protection;

21. Recognizes that poverty is multidimensional, and invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measures that better reflect this multidimensionality;

22. Acknowledges that the eradication of poverty through the development of national capacities in developing countries should continue to be a core area of focus for the United Nations development system and that its development programmes and projects should attempt to address this greatest global challenge as their underlying objective;

23. Invites all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

24. Reiterates its call upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

25. Reaffirms the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the question of poverty eradication, reiterates in this regard its decision, in resolution 63/230 of 19 December 2008, as a contribution to the Second Decade, to convene at its sixty-eighth session a meeting of the General Assembly, at the highest appropriate political level, centered on the review process devoted to the theme relating to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012–2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

26. Notes with concern the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

27. Urges Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization;

28. Encourages the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

29. Encourages Member States to improve existing social protection systems and to continue developing and implementing social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

30. Urges the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

31. Also urges the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

32. Stresses that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty
eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

33. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

34. Calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

35. Encourages greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of efforts;

36. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Also on 20 December, by decision 68/544, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee.

**Millennium Development Goals**

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs [Sales No. E.13.I.9], evaluated progress made on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators. Significant and substantial progress was made in meeting many of the MDG targets, including halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved sources of drinking water. The proportion of urban slum dwellers declined significantly, and remarkable gains were made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. There were also visible improvements in all health areas, as well as in primary education. Nevertheless, achievement of the MDGs was uneven among and within countries. Children from poor and rural households were much more likely to be out of school than their rich and urban counterparts. Wide gaps remained in basic knowledge about HIV and its prevention among young men and women in sub-Saharan Africa, which was hardest hit by the epidemic.

In the report, a call was made for accelerated progress and bolder action in many areas, including environmental sustainability, reduction in child and maternal mortality, access to antiretroviral therapy, universal primary education, and bilateral official development assistance. Disparities, which often stood in the way of further improvements, included rural-urban gaps in access to reproductive health services and clean drinking water, and gender-based inequalities in decision-making power.

**High-level forum.** On 23 September, the Secretary-General hosted a high-level forum on MDG success: accelerating action and partnering for impact. The aim was to catalyze and accelerate further action to achieve the MDGs and enrich the deliberations of the Assembly’s special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the MDGs (see below) and beyond. The forum focused on concrete examples of scaling up success and identifying further opportunities.

**General Assembly special event.** In keeping with its resolution 65/1 [YUN 2010, p. 815], the General Assembly hosted a special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the MDGs (New York, 24–25 September). For its consideration, the Assembly had before it a July report [A/68/2012 & Corr.1] of the Secretary-General on a life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the MDGs and advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015. According to the report, remarkable progress had been made. Many countries had aligned their policies and resources with the Goals to make unparalleled gains. Several critical targets had already been met or would be met by the end of 2015, both at the aggregate level and in individual countries, including the poorest. Progress, however, was insufficient and highly uneven. Rural areas and marginalized groups continued to lag behind on virtually all goals and targets. Countries in, or emerging from conflict, disaster or instability faced significant challenges, and the economic and financial crisis had complicated efforts. The report stated that renewed efforts were essential for achieving the MDGs by the end of 2015, and identified policies and programmes that had driven success in the achievement of the Goals and contributed to accelerating it. These included emphasizing inclusive growth, decent employment and social protection; allocating more resources for essential services and ensuring access for all; strengthening political will and improving the international policy environment; and harnessing the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Secretary-General called upon Member States to adopt a universal post-2015 development agenda, with sustainable development at its core, and the international system to embrace a more coherent and effective response to support the agenda and provide clarity on the road map to 2015.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 9 October [meeting 32], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/6 [draft: A/68/L.4] without vote [agenda items 14 & 118].
Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The General Assembly
Adopts the following outcome document:

Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

1. We, Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York at the special event convened by the President of the General Assembly to review progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to chart the way forward. Our deliberations have taken account of the voices of people worldwide and of the concerns and priorities that they have conveyed.

2. We gather with a sense of urgency and determination, with less than 850 days remaining for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We renew our commitment to the Goals and resolve to intensify all efforts for their achievement by 2015.

3. We welcome what has been achieved so far. The Millennium Development Goals have provided a common vision and have contributed to remarkable progress. Significant and substantial advances have been made in meeting several of the targets.

4. However, we are concerned about unevenness and gaps in achievement and about the immense challenges that remain. The Millennium Development Goals are critical for meeting the basic needs of people in developing countries; as we approach the 2015 deadline, unrelenting efforts are required to accelerate progress across all the Goals.

5. Among and within developing countries, those who have been left furthest behind require our most urgent attention and support. We are conscious of the special challenges and needs of the least developed countries of the fact that, despite some impressive progress, most African countries remain off track in meeting the Millennium Development Goals; and of the fact that conflict and post-conflict countries face the most challenges in achieving any of the Goals by 2015.

6. We recognize the special challenges and needs of small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, many of which are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We also recognize the special challenges in meeting the Goals faced by people living under foreign occupation. We acknowledge the challenges in meeting the Goals for people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism. We also recognize the specific challenges that many middle-income countries face.

Accelerating progress

7. We reaffirm our commitment to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010. The annual reports on the Goals provide updated assessments of where our efforts are most needed and will assist us in framing our approach and priorities.

8. We resolve to target in particular the most off-track Millennium Development Goals and those where progress has stalled, including the Goals relating to poverty and hunger, universal access to primary education, child mortality, universal access to reproductive health, including maternal health, environmental sustainability and access to water and sanitation. In each of these areas, we are determined to take the purposeful and coordinated action required. We will scale up proven interventions, fulfill the pledges that we have made and strengthen our support for the range of valuable initiatives under way, including international support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development.

9. Across all our acceleration efforts, we will emphasize inclusivity and accessibility for all and will place a particular focus on those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged. We will, for example, seek to build the resilience of the poorest in combating hunger, to improve support for women giving birth in areas of greatest deprivation and to improve educational opportunities and learning outcomes for the most vulnerable children.

10. Where efforts are broadly on track and momentum exists, we will do everything possible to sustain and reinforce it. For example, in combating HIV/AIDS, we will step up efforts to meet the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services by 2015. We will sustain and build on the remarkable gains in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis.

11. We will place a strong emphasis on all approaches that have a cross-cutting and multiplier effect. In particular, we recognize that promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls underpins and advances progress across all the Millennium Development Goals. We will resolutely promote gender equality and eliminate the range of barriers to the empowerment of women and girls in our societies.

Global partnership for development

12. We underline the central role of a strengthened global partnership for development. We recognize the importance of national ownership and emphasize that, if the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by 2015, national efforts need to be assisted by international support and an enabling international environment. The mobilization and effective use of all resources, public and private, domestic and international, will be vital.

13. We reaffirm the importance of promoting human rights, good governance, the rule of law, transparency and accountability at all levels.

14. We call for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the reports of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force. We emphasize the need to accelerate progress towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance by 2015, including 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries. We call upon developed countries to urgently fulfill the official development assistance commitments that they have made, individually and collectively.

15. We underline the need for the business sector to engage in responsible business practices.

Post-2015 development agenda

16. In parallel with the intensification of efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, we are determined to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda that will build on the foundations laid by
the Goals, complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges.

17. As we take the work forward, we reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. We will continue to be guided by the values and principles enshrined in those texts.

18. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

19. We are resolved that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We underline the central imperative of poverty eradication and are committed to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency. Recognizing the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development, we underline the need for a coherent approach that integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. This coherent approach involves working towards a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities. It should also promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all.

20. We decide today to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

21. We acknowledge with appreciation the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism. We urge that these processes complete their work in a comprehensive, balanced and expeditious manner by September 2014.

22. The report submitted by the Secretary-General in advance of the present meeting, which draws on inputs from the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, United Nations Development Group consultations, the Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, is a useful input to our deliberations.

23. Over the coming year, the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda will benefit from the General Assembly events to be convened by the President of the Assembly under the theme ‘The post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage’.

24. In arriving at an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda, we look forward to a transparent intergovernmental process that will include inputs from all stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge institutions, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector.

25. We count on the strong support of the United Nations system throughout all our work. As an input to the intergovernmental negotiations to be launched at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, we call upon the Secretary-General to synthesize the full range of inputs then available and to present a synthesis report before the end of 2014.

26. The final phase of the intergovernmental work will culminate in a summit at the level of Heads of State and Government in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. We request the President of the General Assembly to convene, in a timely manner, intergovernmental consultations to achieve agreement on organizational modalities for the summit.

On 23 September, the Assembly adopted resolution 68/3 (see p. 1056) entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”.

On 18 December, in its resolution 68/158 (see p. 683) on the right to development, the Assembly reaffirmed the commitment made to meet the target set in the UN Millennium Declaration of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, and emphasized the principle of international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the goal.

On 27 December (decision 68/550), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session.

Science, technology and innovation for development

Annual ministerial review. During the high-level segment of its 2013 substantive session (1–3 July) [A/68/3/Rev.1], the Economic and Social Council held its annual ministerial review on science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs. The Council further had before it an April report [E/2013/54] of the Secretary-General on the subject, which presented an overview of the potential of science, technology, innovation and culture as tools for achieving the MDGs and argued that overcoming twenty-first century challenges, such as extreme poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, would likely require drawing on a range of innovations from science, technology and culture in the public and private sectors. The report offered a full spectrum of recommendations to the Council, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), for
an enabling environment for science, technology, innovation and culture to flourish. At the national level, public commitment to science, technology and innovation, cultural awareness, and the acknowledgement that innovations and policies had to be tailored to each context, were critical. At the regional and global levels, multi-stakeholder dialogue, institutional reforms and expanded, deepened partnerships around science, technology, innovation and culture were essential to ensuring that the benefits of advances in those sectors were broadly shared.

The Council also considered national reports on the subject by France [E/2013/53], Peru [E/2013/58], Nigeria [E/2013/64] and Viet Nam [E/2013/79]; letters transmitting reports of regional preparatory meeting, in Western Asia (Amman, Jordan, 26 November 2012) [E/2013/92], Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 13 March) [E/2013/91] and Africa (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 14 March) [E/2013/95]; a letter [E/2013/78] dated 14 May by the Economic Commission for Europe transmitting the summary of the Commission’s panel discussion on the role of innovation in creating a dynamic and competitive economy; and notes of the Secretariat on the topic of the ministerial review [E/2013/47] and on the meeting of the 2012/13 Intersessional Panel of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2013/74] (see below).

On 16 December, the Council adopted the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment, entitled “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs” [E/2013/E.18] as corrected, in which Ministers and Heads of delegations requested the Economic and Social Council system, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes, and with input from relevant stakeholders, to work towards policy review, dialogue and recommendations on science and technology and innovation, and the potential for culture for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs.

On the same date, by decision 2013/262, the Council took note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the subject of the annual ministerial review.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its sixteenth session (Geneva, 3–7 June) [E/2013/31-E/CN.16/2013/5 & Corr.1], the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) considered progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) [YUN 2003, p. 857 & YUN 2005, p. 933] at the regional and international levels. It also addressed its two priority themes: science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities, and Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society. The session included two ministerial roundtables on: “Review of progress made in the implementation of wsis outcomes”; and on “Harnessing science and technology to address development challenges”.

CSTD had before it reports of the Secretary-General on the priority themes [E/CN.16/2013/2, E/CN.16/2013/3] and on progress made in implementing and following up to the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels [A/68/65-E/2013/11]; and a summary report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the Commission’s intersessional panel meeting (Lima, Peru, 7–9 January) [E/CN.16/2013/CRP.1].

The Secretary-General, in his report on the priority theme related to science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities [E/CN.16/2013/2], provided an overview of how science, technology and innovation could address key challenges of rapid urbanization, particularly in developing countries, and proposed technology and policy options for consideration by national Governments and the international community, with a view to promoting sustainable urban development. In his report [E/CN.16/2013/3] on Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society, the Secretary-General reviewed the impacts and benefits of broadband for development, and offered a set of policy incentives that could form part of a policy framework for promoting broadband development for an inclusive digital society in developing countries.

CSTD recommended two draft resolutions and one draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see below).

Intersessional panel meeting. The CSTD intersessional panel meeting (Lima, Peru, 7–9 January) [E/CN.16/2013/CRP.1] addressed science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities; Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society; and progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes at the international and regional levels. In addition, the panel dedicated a session on 9 January to discussing issues related to the 2013 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council (see p. 800).

On 22 July (decision 2013/229), the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission’s report on its sixteenth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its seventeenth (2014) session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 July [meeting 41], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2013/31 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 2013/10 without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].
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 torchbearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, 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 that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recalling further the work of the Commission on science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research and on development-oriented policies for a socioeconomically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure and an enabling environment,

Recognizing that local and indigenous culture and knowledge accumulated through the centuries are crucial in solving local problems,

Recognizing also that it is necessary to develop new business models which are accountable and facilitate scale-up of technological innovation that reaches beneficiaries,

Noting that geographic information systems and geospatial tools and analysis provide important applications in urban planning and monitoring,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/211 of 22 December 2011 on science and technology 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 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,

Taking note with appreciation of the high-quality science, technology and innovation policy review prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the Dominican Republic, and welcoming the next science, technology and innovation policy reviews, planned for Oman, Thailand and Viet Nam,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 66/129 of 19 December 2011, 66/211 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, “Science, technology and innovation for sustainable cities and peri-urban communities” and “Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society”,

Recognizing that collaborative learning, cooperation and exchange of best practices are central to innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurship and involve absorptive and productive capacity-building at the individual and the organizational levels,

Recognizing also that, although rapid industrialization in developing countries is increasing the standard of living for many by offering employment opportunities and services for a better life, it has not been inclusive and has created several cross-sectoral challenges for urban governance, including imbalances in the quality of life and other social issues,

Noting that cities are centres of innovation and that the growth and development of countries as a whole will depend largely on the success, habitability and sustainability of their cities,

Noting also that the challenges faced by cities and peri-urban communities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island States, differ widely from those of developed countries and require special analysis in the context of science, technology and innovation interventions,

Recognizing that science, technology and innovation can help to achieve sustainable urban development through the application of high, low, new and emerging technologies, taking into account innovative approaches to urban planning and institutional innovation, while accounting for the economic, environmental, cultural and social dimensions of urbanization,

Recognizing also that science, technology and innovation are necessary for sustainable urban development, to provide affordable solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change on vulnerable urban populations,

Recognizing further the critical role of institutional reforms, financing and public-private partnerships, in addition to science, technology and innovation, in finding solutions to challenges related to sustainable urbanization,

Noting that architecture and engineering go hand in hand when planning, designing, building, retrofitting and maintaining cities, are holistic, inclusive and mindful of specific requirements of all people, male and female, and ultimately provide places where people can live comfortably,

Noting also the activities of Study Group 5 of the International Telecommunication Union to address environmental dimensions of information and communications technologies in cities and the establishment, by the International Telecommunication Union, of the Focus Group on Smart Sustainable Cities to define the role of information and communications technologies in cities that aim to be environmentally sustainable,

Noting further that the global report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development on the state of broadband in 2012 and achieving digital inclusion for all is of relevance to sustainable cities and peri-urban communities,

Decides to make the following recommendations 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) Establish governance mechanisms that facilitate innovative, integrated and multidisciplinary ur-
ban and peri-urban community planning, with urban projects to include targeted end users and participation from relevant departments responsible for spatial planning, housing, water supply, energy supply, mobility, communications, health and sanitation, education and skills training, waste management, environmental protection, security and disaster resilience;

(ii) Put in place regulatory frameworks, at the national, regional and local levels, that mainstream issues of sustainability into urban projects and support business models that scale innovative solutions;

(iii) Invite local governments to establish public-private partnerships for mutual benefit, including to support higher education and vocational training in skills needed for an augmented urban workforce;

(iv) Encourage the integration of information and communications technologies into the infrastructure of cities, where appropriate, to increase the efficiency of services, food supply and mobility, to provide for the safety, security and productivity of citizens and to reduce environmental impacts;

(v) Encourage municipalities to join national and international networks for cooperation to learn from best practices in cities of other regions and countries;

(vi) Provide support for collaborative research involving universities and municipalities on the socioeconomic impact of urbanization, in order to support informed public policies;

(vii) Use information and communications technology-based simulation tools that estimate future requirements in terms of food, water, energy, housing, transport and other services, such as education, health, sanitation, waste management, communication and security, in expanding urban areas, also taking into account the estimated growth of income for planning purposes;

(viii) Establish regional expansion plans that take into account the estimated demand for basic services and infrastructure of growing populations in cities and surrounding peri-urban and rural zones;

(ix) Promote the adoption of urban agriculture technologies as a means to supplement income and food supply;

(x) Also promote technologies and business models that scale affordable, resource-efficient housing for lower-income groups living in slums, as well as new inhabitants of urban areas;

(xi) Explore potential bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation, especially between municipalities and other types of local government, on improving the resilience of cities and peri-urban areas against natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, for example, with the help of early warning systems;

(b) The Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are encouraged:

(i) With respect to the Commission, to continue its role as a torch-bearer for innovation, to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology and engineering for innovation issues, 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, especially for local governments, small and medium enterprises and individual entrepreneurs;

(ii) To provide a forum for building repositories of best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for sustainability, management of services, and solutions for challenges in key urban sectors in developing countries, considering the special requirements of least developed countries and small island States;

(iii) To raise awareness among urban policymakers about the role of science, technology and engineering for innovation, and of information and communications technologies, in facilitating integrated regional planning, spatial design, sustainable resource consumption, and efficient management of services in cities and peri-urban communities, in a gender-sensitive manner;

(iv) To establish a systematic approach for strategy development related to science, technology and engineering for innovation, including harmonized norms and definitions;

(v) With respect to the Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to enhance treatment of information and communications technologies as an integral, empowering asset for science, technology and engineering for innovation within science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(vi) To proactively seek funding for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews and their implementation in close cooperation with United Nations-related agencies and international organizations;

(vii) 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 progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementation of recommendations;

(viii) To encourage 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 gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews, where appropriate;

(ix) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies related to the Millennium Development Goals and in the post-2015 development agenda, with the Chair of the Commission to report to appropriate Council reviews and meetings,
including those related to the Millennium Development Goals review process and the post-2015 development agenda-setting;

(c) The international community is encouraged:

(i) To explore innovative financing models as a means to facilitate investments in replicating science, technology and innovation-based solutions to pressing societal challenges and infrastructural needs for sustainable development, including the management of cities and peri-urban communities in developing countries;

(ii) To establish science, technology and innovation platforms such as open repositories to share and access knowledge, information, experiences and best practices involving technology developments that address the particular urbanization needs and challenges of developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island States;

(iii) To harness information and communications technologies and related social and scientific networks to foster “brain circulation” and the global knowledge society;

(iv) To facilitate university-to-university collaborations involving students and faculty exchanges, two-way mobility and cooperative research aimed primarily at increasing science, technology and innovation capacities and the cross-border and transregional circulation of knowledge for sustainable development;

(v) To nurture joint collaborations on capacity-building of science, technology and innovation human resources and global research infrastructure.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 66/211 [YUN 2011, p. 812], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/68/227] on science and technology for development, which provided information on the recent work of CSTD (see p. 801), UNCTAD and other relevant UN organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to increase science and technology capacity, acquire technologies, accumulate technological know-how, apply science and technology policies to address development issues and integrate such policies into their respective national development plans and strategies. UNCTAD work was carried out under four headings during the preceding biennial period: contributions to the post-2015 development agenda through inter-agency collaborations; in-house research and analysis; the promotion of dialogue and consensus-building; and science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/440/Add.2], adopted resolution 68/220 without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Science, technology and innovation for development

The General Assembly,


Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

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

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

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

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

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

Recalling also 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, 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, 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,

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity to build, support and nurture innovation capacity to enable the development, adoption and dissemination of technology,

Recognizing also 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,

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 establishing a network of centres of excellence in
science, technology and innovation for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

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 project,

Cognizant of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech, in 2004, taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General,

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;

(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, and in this regard takes note of paragraph 273 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which relevant United Nations agencies were requested to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing the technology needs of developing countries, options to address those needs and capacity-building, on the basis of which the Secretary-General, taking into account existing models, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, also takes note of the decision to hold a series of workshops on, inter alia, the technology needs of developing countries, options to address those needs, including capacity-building, and a technology facilitation mechanism, taking into account existing mechanisms and the need to avoid duplication and promote synergies and coherence, as well as for the Secretary-General to report at its sixty-eighth session on the discussions, options and recommendations arising from the workshops, including on the way forward, as well as on additional input from Member States and the United Nations system, and further takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

(c) 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;

(d) 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;

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

(f) 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;

(g) 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;

(h) To encourage the engagement of the private sector to support, through voluntary partnerships, including the transfer of technology and related know-how, developing countries, on mutually agreed terms, through mechanisms such as the Climate Technology Centres 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 sharing of lessons learned within and between partners to avoid duplication and increase impact;

(i) 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. Recognizes the current role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant United Nations agencies, 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;

4. 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 Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

5. Affirms that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the promotion of the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;
6. 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;

7. 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;

8. 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;

9. 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 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;

10. 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;

11. 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;

12. Also 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;

13. 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;

14. 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;

15. 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;

16. 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;

17. Encourages the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the differences in levels 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;

18. 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;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth 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.

**Information and communications technologies**

During 2013, the United Nations continued to consider how the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technology (ict), could be made available to all, in keeping with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799], the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49] and the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action [YUN 2003, p. 857] adopted at the first phase of WSIS [ibid.], and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda adopted at its second phase [YUN 2005, p. 933].
Follow-up to World Summit on the Information Society

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001], the Secretary-General, in March [A/68/65-E/2013/11], reported on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the wsis outcomes at the regional and international levels.

The report found that liberalization and convergence were critical drivers of growth in the ICT sector since wsis. By mid-2012, smartphones accounted for almost 40 per cent of new mobile handsets worldwide; and services provided over mobile networks included not just telephony but also Internet access and social networking. Internet-based companies, such as Google and Facebook, had become critical gateways for access to content and applications. Those changes in technology and markets required adaptations in policy and regulation, including restructuring of regulatory bodies. Cloud computing had developed rapidly, enabling governments, businesses and individuals to store data and use applications online, and to rent services as required, reducing cost on equipment procurement and use. Cloud computing, however, raised privacy and security concerns and required high-quality infrastructure and an enabling legal framework. Web 2.0 services and applications, including blogs, social networks and file-sharing had become tools for free expression and citizen journalism, crowdsourcing information and organizing political protest, but had also raised concerns over privacy, bullying, hate speech and intellectual property.

The report stated that much had been achieved since wsis and some targets had been exceeded. Significant challenges remained, however, particularly in ensuring the inclusiveness of the information society. The review of ongoing initiatives showed that the developmental implications of ICTs could be harnessed through the growth of local ICT sectors in developing countries; however, replicating the successful experiences of some countries, such as India, was not easy. The contribution of ICTs needed to be catalysed through the actions of a variety of actors, particularly governments, the private sector and development partners. Initiatives by international organizations and development partners were being coordinated, and the trend of increased coordination was leading to greater awareness on issues and actions required for bridging the digital divide. The wsis+10 Review, to be completed by the General Assembly in 2015, could make a powerful contribution to the Assembly’s consideration of the post-2015 development agenda. ICTs would play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals.

WSIS Forum. The annual wsis Forum (Geneva, 13–17 May), organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNCTAD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provided opportunities for multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on wsis implementation. At its high-level segment, the Forum addressed women’s empowerment in the information society: systematic, scalable strategies; smart climate change monitoring; expanding access to information on weather, climate and water; ICT innovations and standards; and securing cyberspace in a borderless world.

Working group. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/195 [YUN 2012, p. 832], CSTD established the working group to examine the wsis mandate regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society [YUN 2005, p. 933], which held its first meeting (Geneva, 30–31 May).

Economic and Social Council Action

On 22 July [meeting 41], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2013/31], adopted resolution 2013/9 without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

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,

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 2012/5 of 24 July 2012 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 67/195 of 21 December 2012 on information and communications technologies for development,

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,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society”,

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

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

1. Notes the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, 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 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;

2. Takes note of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission 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;

3. 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;

4. 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 exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, 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 in the stocktaking database;

5. Highlights the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. 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 Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit and, to that end, requested the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach;

7. Notes with satisfaction the holding in Geneva, from 13 to 17 May 2013, of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2013, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, as a multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines;

8. 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;

9. Welcomes the progress highlighted 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, in particular the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world’s inhabitants have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-agriculture, mobile transactions, m-government, e-government, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

10. Notes with great concern 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, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

11. 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, such as an appropriate enabling environment, 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;

12. Also recognizes the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and notes with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;

13. Further recognizes that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment 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;

14. 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 or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

15. Also recognizes that the number of Internet users is growing and that in some instances the digital divide is also changing in character from one 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 from it, 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;

16. Takes note of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development on the state of broadband in 2012 and achieving digital inclusion for all, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for 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;

17. 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;

18. 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;

19. Notes that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environmental applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyber-exploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

20. Reiterates the importance of information and communications technology indicators 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, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services is essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

21. 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;

22. Also reaffirms paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

23. 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 impact on international public policy issues;

24. Also recognizes that the process towards enhanced cooperation, started by the Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation; that relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and being responsive to innovation; and that the same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports;

25. Recalls that, in its resolution 67/195, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement that mandate, and requested the working group to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit;

26. Also recalls that, in its resolution 67/195, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Commission to ensure that the working group on enhanced cooperation has balanced representation between Governments, from the five regional groups of the Commission, and invitees from all other stakeholders, namely, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and intergovernmental and international organizations, drawn equally from developing and developed countries;

27. Notes the conclusion of the first meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, convened by the Chair of the Working Group in Geneva on 30 and 31 May 2013, also notes that a questionnaire will be issued to gather substantive inputs from all stakeholders and that the next meeting will be held from 6 to 8 November 2013, and takes note of the report on the progress made in that regard;

Internet Governance Forum

28. 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;

29. Also recognizes that 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;

30. Recalls General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, information on the progress made in the
implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission, in particular on enhancing participation of developing countries;

31. Notes the seventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Baku from 6 to 9 November 2012 under the main theme, entitled “Internet governance for sustainable human, economic and social development”, and hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan;

32. Welcomes the eighth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia and scheduled to take place in Nusa Dua, Bali, from 22 to 25 October 2013, and notes that the preparation process for the meeting has taken into consideration recommendations from the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum;

The road ahead

33. Urges United Nations entities still not actively cooperating 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 United Nations Millennium Declaration;

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

35. Urges all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable 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 divide;

36. 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;

37. Urges all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfill their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

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

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

(b) Encourages Member States to respond to the survey on the objectives, goals and targets of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit at its first phase, held in Geneva in 2003, which will be conducted between July and September 2013 by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development, so as to contribute to its final assessment report on the achievement of the World Summit targets, to be issued in 2014 on the occasion of the event coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union entitled “wss10 High-level Event”, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in April 2014;

(c) Notes the holding, in Bangkok, from 25 to 27 September 2012, of the tenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Meeting, which enhanced the capacity of Governments in the collection of relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies;

(d) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, so as to be able to respond satisfactorily to surveys such as the World Summit targets survey, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(e) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(f) Calls upon international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

39. 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 regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to this fund;

40. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure the continued functioning of the Internet Governance Forum and its structures, in preparation for the eighth meeting of the Forum, to be held in Nusa Dua from 22 to 25 October 2013, as well as future meetings of the Forum, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum;

41. Recalls paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to make an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015, and paragraph 106 of the Tunis Agenda, according to which the World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

42. Also recalls paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, and decided to consider the modalities for the review process by the end of 2013;

43. Recommends that, consistent with the World Summit process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process should be
launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

44. **Notes** the role of the Commission, 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;

45. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

46. **Reiterates** the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, 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 Project Prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

47. **Requests** the Commission to collect inputs from all facilitators and stakeholders and to organize, during its seventeenth session, in 2014, a substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

48. **Also requests** the Commission to submit, after its eighteenth session, the results of its 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

49. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, 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;

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

51. **Takes note** of and encourages Member States to promote the first Global Youth Summit organized by the International Telecommunication Union, to be held in Costa Rica from 9 to 11 September 2013 and which aims to empower young people as the key contributors towards building the information society and widening opportunities and innovations;

52. **Welcome** the offer by the Government of Egypt to host, in Sharm el-Sheikh, in April 2014, the event co-hosted by the International Telecommunication Union entitled “wsis+10 High-level Event”, which will address at the review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, taking into account the modalities of the overall review that will be set out in the resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, in consultation with the Commission and all relevant United Nations agencies.

### Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), at its eighth meeting (Bali, Indonesia, 22–25 October), aimed at enhancing Internet governance at the local, regional, and global levels, was held under the theme “Building Bridges—Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development”. It was organized and funded by various groups to represent the spirit of a multi-stakeholder approach. While previous forums had primarily focused on the technical and policy aspects of Internet governance, the 2013 IGF incorporated the sub-themes of cyber-security, human rights, cross-sector cooperation, access and diversity.

### Broadband Commission for Digital Development

In 2013, the Broadband Commission for Digital Development (YUN 2011, p. 818) published its report *The State of Broadband 2013: Universalizing Broadband*, which aimed at expanding awareness and understanding of the importance of broadband networks, services, and applications for generating economic growth, and for achieving social progress; and explored the questions of whether, and how, everyone could be connected to broadband Internet. The report examined key trends and developments in broadband, especially growth in mobile broadband; role of broadband in accelerating development and achieving the MDGs; progress towards universalizing broadband; means by which broadband could be made universal; and issues relating to content as an all-important driver of demand. The Commission made policy recommendations on how broadband could be extended, and advocated for digital inclusion for all, on the basis that the benefits of broadband for improving people’s lives should also be universal. The Report found that in the converged broadband environment, the roles of the public and private sectors were changing rapidly, and all stakeholders had to work together towards a common vision to achieve universal broadband.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/435], adopted resolution **68/198** without vote [agenda item 16].

### Information and communications technologies for development

**The General Assembly,**


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

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, as well as the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”

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


Noting also the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking note of the “Broadband targets for 2015”, which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking note also of the report entitled “The state of broadband 2013: universalizing broadband”, which provides a country-by-country evaluation of those targets and the state of broadband deployment worldwide, as well as the report of the Broadband Commission entitled “Doubling digital opportunities: enhancing the inclusion of women and girls in the information society”, which identified a digital gender gap of approximately 200 million fewer women online than men, and noting that without further action to increase access to broadband for women and girls, this digital gender gap could grow to 350 million by 2015,

Recognizing 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, in particular the review and assessment of the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Noting the holding of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 3 to 7 June 2013,

Recognizing the need for respect for national sovereignty and applicable international law in the consideration of information and communications technologies for development, noting the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies, and reaffirming that the same rights people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy, as set out in its resolution entitled “The right to privacy in the digital age”,

Noting that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind and that the information society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and noting also that the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages, as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, will further enrich the information society,

Acknowledging the positive trends in the global connectivity and affordability of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world’s population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony and mobile Internet, the increased availability of multilingual content and the advent of many information and communications technologies services and applications, which offer great potential for the development of the information society,

Noting that progress and many innovations in the field of information and communications technologies, such as mobile Internet, social networking and cloud computing, contribute to a dynamic landscape that requires that all stakeholders continuously adapt to such innovations,

Recognizing ongoing efforts by relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders to conceptualize and articulate the impact of information and communications technologies on development, and encouraging the international community and relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of developing countries in harnessing the benefits of information and communications technologies for achieving the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective for sustainable development,

Stressing, however, that in spite of recent progress, there remains an important and growing digital divide between countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, and stressing also the need to close the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as Internet affordability, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all,

Reaffirming the need to more effectively harness the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed
development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains that pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date.

Expressing concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis on the positive trends in the diffusion of information and communications technologies and the investment needed to ensure universal access to those technologies and efforts to bridge the digital divide.

Expressing concern also about the growing gap in broadband provision between developed and developing countries, as well as about the new dimensions that the digital divide has taken on.

Recognizing that the lack of capacity-building for the productive use of information and communications technologies needs to be addressed in order to overcome the digital divide.

Recognizing also that the number of Internet users is growing and that the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from it, and recognizing further 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.

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

Recognizing the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity.

Reaffirming paragraphs 4, 5 and 55 of the Declaration of Principles adopted in Geneva in 2003, and recognizing that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are essential for the information society and are beneficial to development.

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in combating cybercrime, and emphasizing the need to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

Acknowledging that the Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the information society and is a global facility available to the public.

Welcoming the announcement by Brazil that the country will host the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, to be held in São Paulo on 23 and 24 April 2014.

Recognizing that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and international organizations, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

Recognizing also 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, while acknowledging the calls for improvements in its working methods, and taking into account the recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Reiterating the significance of the process towards enhanced cooperation in full consistency with the mandate provided in the Tunis Agenda, and noting the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, reaffirming that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society 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 recognizing that the two processes may be complementary.

Reaffirming also paragraphs 35 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda.


Taking note of the successful meetings of the Internet Governance Forum held to date, and welcoming the offers to host the next three meetings of the Forum in Turkey in 2014, Brazil in 2015 and Mexico in 2016, in the event of the renewal of the mandate of the Forum.

Recognizing the unique role, challenges and opportunities for youth in a deeply interconnected world, and taking note of the celebration of the “BYND 2015” Global Youth Summit, hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and organized by the International Telecommunication Union together with other organizations of the United Nations system as well as partners from government, industry, media and civil society from 9 to 11 September 2013, as a contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda in the field of communications technology for development.

Recognizing also the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect
to enhancing access to information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communications technologies infrastructure, the Connect Africa summits held in Kigali in 2007 and in Cairo in 2008, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009, the meeting of Commonwealth countries held in Colombo in 2010, the first and second Digital Agenda Assemblies of the European Union, held in 2011 and 2012, the Connect Americas summit held in Panama in 2012, the Connect Arab States summit held in Qatar in 2012, the Connect Asia-Pacific summit held in Thailand in 2013, the Transform Africa summit held in Kigali from 28 to 31 October 2013, the various national and regional Internet governance forums that are held annually around the globe, the Mesoamerican Information Highway, the Trans-European Information Superhighway, the Asia Broadband and Universal Service Leaders Forum to be held in India in October 2015, events of the Alliance for Affordable Internet and many other regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society.

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

2. Also recognizes the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and expresses concern about the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries, and Africa, as a continent, lagging behind the rest of the world;

3. Expresses concern regarding the digital divide in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity between countries at different levels of development, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and also expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

4. Acknowledges that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women’s access to and use of information and communications technologies for their overall empowerment and benefit, and in this regard recalls the agreed conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

5. Stresses that, for the majority of the poor, the development 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, to bridge the digital divide;

6. Also stresses the important role of Governments in the effective use of information and communications technologies in their design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

7. Further stresses the important role played by private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

8. Recognizes that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communications technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and complemented by South-South cooperation, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation can be useful tools for promoting the development of information and communications technologies;

9. Also recognizes that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

10. Further recognizes the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity;

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

12. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, host of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international and regional organizations, for organizing annually the ICT 4 All Forum and technological exhibition as a platform within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit for promoting a dynamic business environment for the information and communications technologies sector worldwide;

13. Notes the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
14. Also notes the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;
15. Encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;
16. Recognizes the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in this regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its efforts to promote the use of information and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;
17. Also recognizes the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as an inter-agency mechanism of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination designed to coordinate United Nations implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;
18. Takes note of the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group, particularly on enhancing the participation of developing countries;
19. Stresses the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all Internet Governance Forum meetings, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;
20. Invites Member States and other stakeholders to give appropriate consideration to the issue of information and communications technologies for development in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;
21. Reaffirms the role of the General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
22. Decides to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, as early as possible, but no later than the end of March 2014, and invites the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;
23. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;
24. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Information and communications technologies for development”.

On 27 December (decision 68/550), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on information and communications technologies for development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixtieth (2014) session.

Connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region

Eurasian Connectivity Alliance

On 4 September [meeting 98], the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/298 [draft: A/67/L.78 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 17].

Developing cooperation for better connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolutions 64/186 of 21 December 2009 and 67/194 of 21 December 2012,
1. Emphasizes the importance of improving connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region, and in this regard takes note of the proposal on the establishment of the Eurasian Connectivity Alliance aimed at highlighting synergies among Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international development institutions towards improving the development of regional telecommunications transit routes;
2. Invites, in this regard, Governments, the United Nations system and international development institutions, within their current mandates and core competencies, and within existing resources, as well as the private sector, civil society and academia, to engage in relevant discussions on the proposed Eurasian Connectivity Alliance.

Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

On 29 November, Azerbaijan announced that a memorandum of understanding on the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (TASIM) would be signed in Baku at the BakuTel-2013 exhibition (2–5 December). TASIM, which envisioned creating a major transit link from Frankfurt, Germany, to Hong Kong, China, connecting all major centers of information exchange in Europe and Asia, would be implemented in two stages. In the first stage, leading regional countries and operators would create a major transit infrastructure linking the West and the East. The second phase would provide Eurasian countries currently without access to open sea, including Central Asian States, with Internet connection at affordable rates.
International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2015

At its General Conference (Paris, 5–20 November), UNESCO recommended that the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, adopt a resolution declaring 2015 as the International Year of Light.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/440/Add.2], adopted resolution 68/221 without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2015

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006, on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto, on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, which state that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,
Recognizing the importance of light and light-based technologies in the lives of the citizens of the world and for the future development of global society on many levels,
Stressing that enhanced global awareness of and increased education in the science and technologies of light are vital for addressing challenges such as sustainable development, energy and community health, as well as for improving the quality of life in both developed and developing countries,
Considering that the applications of light science and technology are vital for existing and future advances in, inter alia, medicine, energy, information and communications, fibre optics, agriculture, mining, astronomy, architecture, archaeology, entertainment, art and culture, as well as many other industries and services, and that light-based technologies contribute to the fulfillment of internationally agreed development goals, including by providing access to information and increasing societal health and well-being,
Considering also that technology and design can play an important role in the achievement of greater energy efficiency, in particular by limiting energy waste, and in the reduction of light pollution, which is key to the preservation of dark skies,
Noting that 2015 coincides with the anniversaries of a series of important milestones in the history of the science of light, including the works on optics by Ibn Al-Haytham in 1015, the notion of light as a wave proposed by Fresnel in 1815, the electromagnetic theory of light propagation proposed by Maxwell in 1865, Einstein’s theory of the photoelectric effect in 1905 and of the embedding of light in cosmology through general relativity in 1915, the discovery of the cosmic microwave background by Penzias and Wilson and Kao’s achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibres for optical communication, both in 1965,
Considering that the celebration of the anniversaries of these discoveries in 2015 would provide an important opportunity to highlight the continuous nature of scientific discovery in different contexts, with particular emphasis on women’s empowerment in the science sector and on promoting science education among young people, especially in developing countries,
Noting that, at its 2013 substantive session, the Economic and Social Council organized its work for the annual ministerial review under the theme “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”,
Reaffirming 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”,
Noting the endorsement by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 190th session of the initiative to proclaim 2015 the International Year of Light and the adoption of that initiative by the General Conference at its thirty-seventh session, on 19 November 2013,
1. Decides to proclaim 2015 the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies;
2. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the organization and implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the International Council for Science and other relevant academic and non-governmental organizations;
3. Stress that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the lead agency should be met from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;
4. Encourages all States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year to promote actions at all levels, including through international cooperation, and to increase awareness among the public of the importance of light science, optics and light-based technologies and of promoting widespread access to new knowledge and related activities;
5. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, elaborating, inter alia, on the evaluation of the International Year.

Development policy
and public administration

Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Policy (cdp), at its fifteenth session (New York, 18–22 March) [E/2013/33], addressed the following themes: the role of science, technology and innovation in achieving sustainable
development, as its contribution to the 2013 annual ministerial review of the subject by the Economic and Social Council (see p. 800); the vulnerabilities and development needs of the small island developing States (SIDS); emerging issues in international development in the post-2015 era; issues relating to the least developed countries (LDCs), including guidelines for their smooth transition from the category of LDCs and monitoring the development progress of Samoa (see p. 820).

CDP noted that science, technology and innovation and related policies needed to be placed in a broader context that took into account institutional, cultural and historical dimensions. Governments had a fundamental role to play in building science and technology innovation capabilities, requiring changes in international trade and investment regimes to provide them with adequate policy space to undertake appropriate measures. A comprehensive approach was therefore required, as well as a more adequate system of incentives for the promotion and dissemination of technologies to meet basic human needs and address environmental challenges.

With respect to the vulnerabilities and development needs of SIDS, CDP identified mounting threats associated with climate change, the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crisis, and more structurally, the intensification of existing vulnerabilities owing to increased globalization. Stabilizing global economic and financial markets and international measures to minimize the extent and impact of climate change was indispensable to the sustainable development of SIDS, and measures to support climate change adaptation in those States had to be scaled up.

In its consideration of the development agenda beyond 2015, the Committee stated that urgent action was needed to move from the articulation of global goals to the implementation of policies and strategies. A new development approach had to be universal, and international cooperation would need to deliver more effectively on three basic objectives: managing the growing interdependence of countries, promoting universally agreed social and environmental standards; and reducing the large inequalities in countries’ levels of economic development.

Regarding LDCs, CDP proposed refinements to the reporting procedures of graduating and graduated countries and of CDP itself in the light of General Assembly resolution 67/221 [YUN 2012, p. 842], which were intended to enhance reporting on smooth transition strategies. The Committee noted the sustained positive development progress of Samoa, which was scheduled to graduate in January 2014.

For its forthcoming sixteenth session, CDP would undertake work on the theme of the 2014 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 24 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2013/20 [draft: E/2013/L.19] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

**Report of the Committee for Development Policy**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,


*Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, but that it should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,*

*Noting the importance of adequate financing to address the challenges created by the adverse impacts of climate change on extremely vulnerable countries graduating from the least developed country category,*

*Recalling that, in its resolution 59/209, the General Assembly decided that graduation from the category of least developed countries becomes effective three years after the date on which the Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate a country from the category and that, during the three-year period, the country remains in the category and maintains the advantages associated with membership of that category,*

*Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,*

1. Takes note of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifteenth session;

2. Notes with appreciation the work done by the Committee on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2013, on addressing the vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States, on emerging issues in international development in the post-2015 era and on the guidelines on reporting requirements for a smooth transition from the least developed country category;

YUN 2013—6th proof—12 December 2017
3. Requests the Committee, at its sixteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the theme chosen by the Council for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2014;

4. Also requests the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. Further requests the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the category of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

6. Endorses the recommendations contained in chapter V of the report of the Committee as a further clarification of the guidelines on the additional reporting procedures by which, as invited by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/221, graduating and graduated countries report on the preparation and implementation of their smooth transition strategy, in order to enhance the transparency of those reporting procedures;

7. Welcomes the decision by the General Assembly to take note of the decisions of the Council regarding the graduation of countries from the category of least developed countries, as well as the inclusion of countries in that category, at the first session of the Assembly following the adoption of such decisions by the Council;

8. Recalls the recommendation of the Committee that Tuvalu be graduated from the category of least developed countries, and decides to defer the consideration of this issue, on an exceptional basis, to its substantive session of 2015, allowing the Council an opportunity for further consideration of the particular challenges that Tuvalu faces;

9. Reiterates its satisfaction at the increased frequency of interaction between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair of the Committee and, as necessary, other Committee members to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20, within existing resources and as appropriate.

Public administration

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its twelfth session (New York, 15–19 April [E/2013/44]), considered the role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, and the review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration. The Committee had before it a Secretariat report [E/C.16/2013/5] on the topic. The Committee highlighted the importance of encouraging networking and sharing information; educating civil servants on professionalism, ethics and integrity; selecting and retaining talent; increasing the morale of civil servants; providing support to post-conflict countries; providing access of people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups to services; managing risk and disasters; providing continuous training; and promoting public-private partnerships. In addition, the Committee suggested that the Secretariat promote transformative government and innovation in public governance to achieve socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability; promote advocacy and knowledge-sharing on good governance at the global, regional, national and local levels; develop appropriate capacity-building tools and approaches, including self-assessment tools; work with Governments to adapt good governance indicators to national circumstances; and continue strengthening technical cooperation activities in the field, including at the subnational level, in line with national development policy frameworks. The Committee proposed that the Secretariat carry out a survey on citizen engagement as part of a new governance inventory and assessment tool.

On 24 July, by decision 2013/238, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Committee’s thirteenth session would be held in New York from 7 to 11 April, 2014, and approved the session’s provisional agenda.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2013/23 [draft: E/2013/L.27] without vote [agenda item 13 (g)].

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling its resolutions 2011/12 of 26 April 2011, 2011/22 of 27 July 2011 and 2012/28 of 27 July 2012 and other related resolutions on public administration and development,
Referring to General Assembly resolutions 65/141 of 20 December 2010 and 66/184 of 22 December 2011 and
other related resolutions on information and communications technologies for development,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 67/195 of 21 December 2012, in which the Assembly stressed the important role of Governments in the design of their national public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communications technologies, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts,

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”,

Recalling also the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Recalling further its resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012, in which the Council called upon the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments made in the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including good governance at all levels,

Recognizing the commitment on meeting the special needs of Africa expressed in the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recognizing also the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

Noting the support provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to countries on public sector leadership and institutional and human resources capacity development, electronic and mobile government, and citizen engagement in managing development programmes,

Recognizing that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development,

Underscoring the centrality of transparent, accountable, efficient, effective, non-discriminatory, professional and citizen-oriented public administration, as embodied in relevant, ongoing international initiatives, to the successful implementation of development policies and the management of development programmes,

Underscoring also the actual potential of e-government in promoting transparency, accountability, efficiency and citizen engagement in public service delivery,

Recalling that, in its resolution 2012/28, the Council invited the Committee to study the effect of specific practices in responsive and inclusive public governance on development and requested the Committee to convey the outcome of the study to the Council in the report on its twelfth session, held in April 2013, with a view to assisting the process of preparing for deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda,

1. Takes note of the conclusions of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, contained in the report on its twelfth session, on the role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda;

2. Notes the involvement of the United Nations system in the work of the Committee, and encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and others to continue to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in addressing the multidimensional nature of governance and in promoting a holistic, transformative approach to governance, public administration and institutional development at the national and local levels, with a view to strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable development;

3. Also notes the global thematic consultation on governance, co-led by the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and its valuable contribution to promoting open, inclusive and broad-based deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda;

4. Reaffirms that the foundations for sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration;

5. Stresses the centrality of effective and responsive local governance with sufficient and appropriate authority and resources for sustainable development, and emphasizes the need to strengthen governance, public administration and professionalism at both the national and the local levels, to improve the delivery of public services;

6. Notes that the Committee has a role in supporting the Economic and Social Council in addressing the global development agenda, bearing in mind the need for expert and insightful global advice on governance and public administration in its various dimensions, and encourages the Committee to remain involved in and to contribute to the relevant intergovernmental and expert processes relating to the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as appropriate;

7. Encourages Member States:
   (a) To promote effective leadership, high standards of professionalism, ethics, integrity, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector at the national and local levels through, inter alia, the use of information and communications technologies;
   (b) To promote public trust and accountability by providing access to information, fostering the use of open government data in public institutions and publicly funded organizations and optimizing citizen engagement, including through relevant and ongoing initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to take steps to support Governments in this regard, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations system entities, as appropriate;
   (c) To continue to support capacity-building in public governance and institution-building at all levels by, inter alia, encouraging innovation in the public service, fully harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies in all areas of government, engaging citizens and encouraging public participation in managing development;
   (d) To promote the effective management of diversity and inclusion in public services and to enhance equality in access to services by all, especially persons with disabilities,
the elderly, women, youth, children and other disadvantaged groups;

8. Requests the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To address gaps in research, monitoring, capacity development and implementation in governance and public administration and, in particular, to further develop its public administration country studies and to increase the scope and depth of its capacity-development activities with the aim of better assisting countries, according to their specific contexts and needs, in strengthening participatory governance, strengthening public administration, advancing public-private partnerships, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer in the public sector and better defining e-government strategies and policies;

(b) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance so as to achieve sustainable development by further promoting advocacy and knowledge transfer on good governance at the global, regional, national and local levels, through, inter alia, United Nations Public Service Day, the United Nations Public Service Awards and the United Nations Public Administration Network, by developing capacity-building tools and approaches, including self-assessment tools, and providing advisory services in the field, as appropriate;

(c) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, on issues related to e-government, e-participation, mobile government, open government data, the use of information and communications technologies in parliaments and the Internet Governance Forum.

Groups of countries in special situations

On 20 September [A/68/441], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, included in the agenda of its sixth-eighth session the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, covering the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme, and allocated it to the Second Committee.

On 20 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee [A/68/441] on the subject (decision 68/543).

Least developed countries

The special problems of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were considered in several UN forums in 2013, particularly through the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) [YUN 2011, p. 828]. In addition to the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also dealt with LDC-related issues.

The Least Developed Countries Report 2013 [Sales No. E.13.II.D.1], published by UNCTAD, addressed the issue of growth with employment for inclusive and sustainable development. It examined the link between investment, growth and employment, and how LDCs could promote growth that generated sufficient quality jobs to enable them to meet their most urgent and pivotal goals.

LDCs were facing a stark demographic challenge as their population, some 60 per cent of which was under 25 years of age, was projected to double to 1.7 billion by 2050, with the working-age population estimated to increase on average by 15.7 million people each year. UNCTAD found that growth in LDCs had not been inclusive; its contribution to poverty reduction had been limited; and it had not generated enough “quality” jobs that offered higher wages and better working conditions, specially for the young. The report underlined the importance of employment creation as the best and most dignified pathway out of poverty, and proposed a policy framework linking employment creation with development of productive capacity. For LDC policymakers, the primary goal would be to promote growth through the investment-growth-employment nexus. The critical entry point for creating such a nexus was investment. Given the relatively weak private sector in many LDCs, the investment push required to kick-start the growth process would more likely originate in the public sector. Investment in infrastructure seemed to be a natural starting point, since the lack of adequate infrastructure in most LDCs was a serious bottleneck to enterprise development and productive capacity-building. The policy framework also assigned greater importance to the upgrading of firms and farms of all sizes, and recommended a three-pronged approach to employment creation focusing on the generation of foreign exchange through investment in both capital- and labour-intensive tradable activities; the expansion of the non-tradable sector and the concomitant creation of jobs; and productivity improvement in agriculture in general and subsistence agriculture in particular.

LDC list

CDP [E/2013/33] considered reporting requirements for LDCs identified for graduation by the General Assembly. In accordance with resolution 67/221 [YUN 2012, p. 842], CDP recommended that the annual
report by graduating countries should include a concise summary of progress achieved in setting up a consultative mechanism; identification of the LDC-specific international support measures most relevant to the country, and details on the level of commitment made by its development and trading partners in maintaining or phasing out those measures; information on the preparation of the transition strategy; and the latest version of the transition strategy.

As for CDP reports on graduating countries, the Committee suggested monitoring the development progress of graduating countries on an annual basis and including the findings in its annual report to the Council, including a review of a selected set of indicators to assess any signs of deterioration in the development progress of the graduating country; and a summary of CDP’s review of the information provided by the graduating country on the preparation of the transition strategy.

With regard to reports by graduated countries, CDP recommended a timeline for the submission of those reports, which would include an overview of progress made in implementing the smooth transition strategy, and information on whether the measures by the Government and the commitments by its development and trading partners identified in the transition strategy were being fulfilled. In cases where support was reduced or withdrawn, the report would indicate how the country was affected so that CDP could bring any negative measures to the Council as early as possible.

With respect to CDP reports on graduated countries, the Committee recommended that it continue to monitor the development progress of those countries based on the existing guidelines [YUN 2008, p. 939], and identify signs of reversal during the post-graduation period and to bring them to the attention of the Council.

CDC requested the Council to endorse the recommended procedures as a further clarification to the framework established by resolution 67/221 [YUN 2012, p. 842].

In accordance with Council resolution 2012/32 [YUN 2012, p. 837], the Committee examined the development progress of Samoa, which was earmarked for graduation from the LDC category in resolution 62/97 [YUN 2007, p. 863]. While Samoa remained highly vulnerable to economic shocks, it continued to make economic and social progress. Its gross national income per capita had increased since 2009, as it continued to recover from the negative impact of the global economic crisis and the Pacific Ocean tsunami of 2009. With graduation scheduled for 1 January 2014, the Committee reiterated the importance of the country preparing its smooth transition strategy, in collaboration with its development partners.

At year’s end, the list of LDCs comprised the following 49 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 59], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/18 [draft: A/68/L.20] without vote [agenda item 9].

Graduation of countries from the least developed country category

The General Assembly, Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/32 of 27 July 2012 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session, Taking into account its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004, 65/286 of 29 June 2011 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 67/221, in which the General Assembly decided to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from the least developed country category, as well as the inclusion of countries in that category, at the first session of the Assembly following the adoption of the decisions,

Emphasizing that graduation from the least developed country category is a major milestone for the country involved as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals,

1. Takes note of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the least developed country category, and decides to provide Equatorial Guinea, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of six months before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

3. Invites Equatorial Guinea to prepare, during the three and a half year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners;

4. Takes note of the endorsement by the Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category, and decides to provide Vanuatu, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of one year before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;
5. Invites Vanuatu to prepare, during the four-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners.

Follow-up to the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/220 [YUN 2012, p. 844], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/68/217] on the technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs.

The report argued that a comprehensive and integrated approach was needed to respond effectively to the mandate of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020 [YUN 2011, p. 828]. It was proposed that the technology bank comprise a patents bank to help LDCs access and utilize appropriate technologies; a science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism to help improve the scientific research and innovation base of LDCs; and a science and technology research depository facility to promote the global networking of researchers and research institutions in LDCs. Strong global support would be key to the success of the technology bank. The report outlined the rationale and broad functions of the technology bank, and recommended that further consultations be undertaken to define its structure, functions, governance mechanism, funding and staffing arrangements and other institutional matters. Those consultations had to involve experts drawn from the host country, LDCs and their partner countries, UN system agencies and other relevant stakeholders, in order to work out institutional modalities.

Communication. On 30 September [A/IC.2/68/3], Benin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of LDCs (New York, 27 September). Participants called for the early operationalization of the technology bank for LDCs and stressed the need for an agreement on its structure, functions, governance mechanism, funding and staffing arrangements, and other institutional matters. It welcomed Turkey’s offer to host the bank; called upon the General Assembly to decide to establish the bank at its sixty-eighth session; on the Secretary-General to move ahead to operationalize the bank; and on the international community to extend its generous support.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/441/Add.1], adopted resolution 68/224 without vote [agenda item 22 (a)].

Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and 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 and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolutions 67/220 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46 of 26 July 2013 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2013,

Taking note also of the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the state of the least developed countries 2013,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries;

2. Expresses serious concern that, after a decade of welcomed steady economic growth, the least developed countries are facing significant challenges in sustaining their economic growth and that their economies are estimated to have grown by 3.3 per cent in 2012, which is considerably below the target of 7 per cent per annum set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;

3. Expresses concern that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for the deployment of appropriate regional and international in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects; and

4. Expresses its concern that all countries, particularly the least developed countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, glacial lake outburst floods and ocean acidification, which further
threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

5. **Underscores** that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with themselves, and also underscores that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of the least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnership;

6. **Calls upon** the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development; trade; commodities; human and social development; multiple crises and other emerging challenges; mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building; and good governance at all levels, and in this regard calls upon the development partners and invites all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to provide, in accordance with their respective mandates, enhanced, predictable and targeted substantive and technical support to the least developed countries;

7. **Calls upon** the least developed countries and their development partners to ensure enhanced focus on policies and means to address productive capacity-building, and in this respect encourages them to give priority to expanding the access of women, youth and the poor to factors of production such as employability skills, finance, technology and land;

8. **Stresses** that the least developed countries should receive a special focus throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030, as well as other energy goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests that, in the Secretary-General’s coordination of the Decade, within existing resources, the least developed countries should receive such special focus, with a view to ensuring the successful realization of the Decade;

9. **Invites** the organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to designate specific focal points or organizational units within their secretariats, with a view to ensuring consistent coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the agency level;

10. **Calls upon** the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

11. **Invites** the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence, in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

12. **Expresses concern** over the fall in official development assistance to the least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011 and, according to preliminary estimates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a further decline in net bilateral official development assistance of 12.8 per cent in 2012, while noting that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfill their commitments for official development assistance to the least developed countries at the earliest possible time;

13. **Recalls** the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and invites donor countries to share with the General Assembly the results of such reviews at the earliest possible time as an input to the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

14. **Expresses its serious concern** at the fact that the share of expenditure for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, takes note of decisions 2012/1 of 3 February 2012 and 2012/28 of 10 September 2012 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Executive Board reiterated the allocation to least developed countries of a minimum of 60 per cent of its target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC-1) resources, and invites the governing bodies of other organizations of the United Nations development system and other multilateral organizations to prioritize allocations to least developed countries, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

15. **Welcomes** steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in the least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency and results orientation;

16. **Stresses** the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

17. **Acknowledges** that trade has an important role in ensuring the sustainable economic development of the least developed countries and that the international trade architecture should continue to be supportive of and responsive to the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries.
18. **Reaffirms** the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries, and encourages developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

19. **Underlines** the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up to paragraph 145 of the Istanbul Programme of Action regarding the steps taken to ensure mutual accountability;

20. **Also underlines** the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

21. **Reiterates its request** to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

22. **Expresses its concern** that, although the least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, many of the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to the least developed countries in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries by 2015;

23. **Reaffirms** the commitment made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

24. **Decides** that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in the processes devoted to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. **Notes with appreciation** the offer of Turkey to host a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations and in this regard:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of voluntary contributions, to constitute a high-level panel of experts drawn from the least developed countries and their development partners, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to carry out a feasibility study, with secretariat support provided, within existing resources, by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in order to examine its scope, functions, institutional linkage with the United Nations and organizational aspects, including by:

(i) Assessing the ability of a technology bank to promote scientific research and innovation and facilitate the diffusion and transfer of technologies to the least developed countries, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions, and with necessary protections for intellectual property;

(ii) Considering the current international institutional landscape, synergies and options for cooperation with relevant international technology initiatives, stakeholders and organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, and the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

(iii) Examining and outlining potential functions, activities, working methods, governance mechanisms, staffing arrangements and costs for a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism, including possible regional centres in the least developed countries;

(iv) Examining options for facilitating the necessary voluntary financial support to a technology bank for its establishment and effective and sustained functioning;

(b) Also requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report and the recommendations of the high-level panel of experts to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session for its consideration, with a view to operationalizing a technology bank during its seventieth session, if so recommended by the panel;

26. **Also notes with appreciation** that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

27. **Recognizes** that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

28. **Notes** the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries led by the Office of the High Representative, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, notes the steps taken by the Chief Executives Board and the High-level Committee in supporting coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, also reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board, and requests the Secretary-General to report on further progress made in this regard;
29. Notes with appreciation that the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations Development Group have issued operational guidelines for United Nations country teams operating in the least developed countries to follow up on the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country level, and requests the United Nations development system to ensure ongoing monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the guidelines;

30. Strongly encourages Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund, in Support of Activities Undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

31. Welcomes the offer of the Government of Benin to host a ministerial conference on new partnerships for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries during the first half of 2014, and looks forward to its successful outcome;

32. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Programme of Action (2011–2020)


The report found that LDCs had made some progress towards achieving many of the goals and targets agreed in Istanbul. Structural change seemed to be taking hold, in particular in those countries with a sustained high level of GDP growth, helped in large part by increasing investment and rapid urbanization. Most LDCs, however, continued to face pervasive poverty, serious structural impediments to growth, low levels of human development, and high exposure to shocks and disasters. More worrisome was that the deteriorating global economic environment was being transmitted to LDCs through declining foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) flows, thus putting at risk hard-won gains and the ability to expand such gains.

According to the Secretary-General, specific attention had to be given to productive capacity-building, which was essential to growth, structural transformation and the creation of decent jobs. That would also require capacity-building of the private sector and further policy reforms to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to development. Sustainable agricultural practices needed to be adopted so as to increase productivity, address climate change challenges and help achieve food security. Expanding the access of women and youth to factors of production, such as employability skills, finance and land, needed to be a key priority, and the development of rural infrastructure and storage capacity, the modernization of agriculture and the expansion of availability of credit, finance and extension services needed to be prioritized. Further recommendations included expanding duty-free and quota-free access to markets; establishing a special technology transfer and technological capacity-building mechanism; improving the quality and effectiveness of ODA; strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation; and building appropriate adaptation and resilience capacities to mitigate the effects of natural hazards and shocks.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July [meeting 48], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2013/46 [draft: E/2013/L.21] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)].

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012 on the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 67/220 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012,

Emphasizing the need for coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

Recognizing that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity,

Noting that the theme of the 2013 annual ministerial review is “Science, technology and innovation, and the po-
tential of culture, in promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;

2. Reaffirms the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

3. Expresses its concern that the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating the effects of such shocks;

4. Reaffirms that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. Notes the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full employment and decent work for all, expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, those countries are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, including because of the structural constraints of their economies, and in this regard encourages further action by the least developed countries to strengthen productive capacities, as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recalls the commitments made by the development partners in the Programme of Action to provide, inter alia, enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, in order to support the efforts of the least developed countries to achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. Recognizes that least developed countries have made some progress on many of the goals and targets in the Istanbul Programme of Action, leading to structural change in a few of them, expresses its concern that most least developed countries continue to face pervasive poverty, serious structural impediments to growth, low levels of human development and high exposure to shocks and disasters, and also expresses its concern that the challenges presented by the global economic environment are putting at risk the hard-won gains achieved so far and the ability to expand those gains to all least developed countries;

7. Welcomes the progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. Also welcomes the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

9. Invites all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by implementing enhanced substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely manner, and to integrate the Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard invites them to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action as part of their annual reporting to their respective governing bodies;

10. Expresses its concern over the fall in official development assistance to least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011 and its further decline subsequently, while noting that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to least developed countries;

11. Welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid to least developed countries by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;
12. Recalls the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries;

13. Calls upon the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

14. Calls upon the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy plans, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

15. Calls upon the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

16. Invites the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

17. Welcomes with appreciation the decisions taken by various entities of the United Nations system, including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action and integrate its relevant provisions into their programmes of work, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

18. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

19. Underlines the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

20. Recalls the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

21. Underlines the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up to paragraph 145 of the Programme of Action as regards the steps taken to ensure mutual accountability;

22. Reaffirms its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

23. Reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

24. Expresses its concern that, although least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, many of the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to least developed countries in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals in least developed countries by 2015;

25. Strongly encourages giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity, in the processes devoted to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

26. Notes the biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action undertaken by the relevant United Nations regional commissions in 2013, and invites them to continue to carry out such reviews in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

27. Notes with appreciation that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to extend the necessary support in this regard;

28. Recognizes that the activities relating to least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to
be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action led by the Office of the High Representative and to provide well-coordinated support for realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

29. Strongly encourages Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Council, as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

30. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2014, under the sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020” of the item entitled “Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits”, a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Small island developing States


In efforts to implement the strategy, sids had pursued different initiatives to accelerate national and regional implementation, and entities of the UN system had placed a stronger emphasis on sids in their work. In preparation for the third International Conference on sids, national consultations were held, resulting in national reports, which led to regional synthesis reports. Regional preparatory meetings were held in July in Fiji, Jamaica and Seychelles, and the interregional meeting took place in August, in Barbados. There were also a number of expert group meetings organized by UN entities on strengthening partnerships towards disaster risk reduction for sids; the significance of marine science and technology and importance of capacity-building and marine technology transfer to sids; sids and the post-2015 development agenda; and emerging issues in sids.

Preparations for Third International Conference on SIDs

On 17 May, the General Assembly decided that the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States would be held from 1–4 September 2014, in Apia, Samoa, to be preceded by activities related to the Conference from 28–30 August 2014, also in Apia (decision 67/558).

Communication. On 20 October [A/C.2/68/7], Barbados transmitted to the Secretary-General the Needhams Point, Bridgetown Ministerial Declaration and the outcome document of the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados, 26–28 August).

Programme budget implications. The Secretary-General submitted, in December [A/C.5/68/19], a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67 (see below), requesting additional resources in the amount of $762,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the 2014–2015 proposed programme budget.

ACABQ report. In December [A/68/7/Add.21], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the Assembly that additional resources in the amount of $762,600 would be required.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/438/Add.2], adopted resolution 68/238 without-vote agenda item 19 (b).

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,
Recalling the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

Reaffirming 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”, including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

Recalling its resolutions 67/207 of 21 December 2012, 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and 68/6 of 9 October 2013, and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013, in which it decided on the dates of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in the Independent State of Samoa,

Recalling also its resolution 67/206 of 21 December 2012, in which the General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling further the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes,

Taking note of the Leaders’ Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

Welcoming the inaugural meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held in New York on 24 September 2013, and looking forward to the future meetings of the Forum, at which adequate time shall be devoted to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

Welcoming also the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York on 25 September 2013,

Recognizing the special challenges and needs of small island developing States, many of which are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Acknowledging with appreciation those Member States that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of small island developing States in the regional and interregional preparatory processes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Recalls that the Commission on Sustainable Development was the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, also recalls its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013, and notes the need to devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges of developing countries, including small island developing States;

3. Reaffirms the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and achieving sustainable development;

4. Acknowledges that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

5. Calls for continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States in achieving sustainable development;

6. Decides that the overarching theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 shall be “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”, and also decides that the Conference shall serve as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as to launch innovative and concrete new ones to advance the sustainable development of small island developing States;

7. Reaffirms its decision that the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document;

8. Takes note of the outcomes of the 2013 regional preparatory meetings for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from 2 to 4 July in Kingston, from 10 to 12 July in Nadi, Fiji, and from 17 to 19 July in Mahé, Seychelles, as well as the outcome of the interregional meeting held from 26 to 28 August 2013 in Bridgetown;

9. Decides to establish the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, consisting of two members of each regional group, and that the Independent State of Samoa will serve as an ex officio member of the Bureau;

10. Also decides that the Bureau will be co-chaired by two Member States, comprising one developed State and one developing State;

11. Invites regional groups to nominate their candidates for the Bureau no later than early January 2014;

12. Decides that discussions at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be based on, inter alia, the outcome document of the interregional preparatory meeting for the Conference;

13. Invites participants in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee to send written inputs on the objectives and substantive theme of the Conference to the Secretariat in advance of the first meeting of the Committee, and invites the Secretariat to make them available electronically;

14. Decides to organize the meetings of the Preparatory Committee in the most efficient and effective manner, as follows:
(a) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held over three days, from 24 to 26 February 2014, to discuss the objectives and substantive theme of the Conference and organizational and procedural matters, including the rules of procedure, and to elect the members of the Bureau;

(b) The final meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held over five days, from 23 to 27 June 2014, to finalize the preparatory work for the Conference, including the outcome document;

15. Also decides that all meetings of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

16. Invites the co-chairs to prepare the draft outcome document, to be circulated no later than 14 March 2014;

17. Decides that an intersessional meeting will be held over five days, with interpretation services on an “as available” basis, from 21 to 25 April 2014, to discuss the thematic areas of the outcome document of the Conference, and invites the Bureau to convene further informal meetings in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner;

18. Reiterates that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level;

19. Recommends the provisional agenda set forth in annex I to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;

20. Decides that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

21. Strongly encourages Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document at the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the intergovernmental committee process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

23. Urges international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to representatives of small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself;

24. Stresses the need for the effective participation of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and other major groups, and invites voluntary contributions to the trust fund to support the participation of major groups of developing countries, in particular small island developing States, in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself;

25. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

ANNEX I

Provisional agenda of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Apia, 1 to 4 September 2014

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference;
8. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
10. General debate.
12. Outcome of the Conference.

ANNEX II

Proposed organization of work of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Apia, 1 to 4 September 2014

I. Organization of work

A. Plenary meetings

3. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will consist of an opening and a closing and a total of six plenary meetings, to be held as follows:

Monday, 1 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, 2 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
Wednesday, 3 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
Thursday, 4 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
4. The six plenary meetings will be devoted to statements.
5. All plenary meetings will be held at the Faleata Sports Complex in Apia.
6. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established on a first-come first-served basis, with the
customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat, prepared in close consultations with the host country and the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

7. At the formal opening of the Conference, to take place during the plenary meeting to be held in the morning of Monday, 1 September 2014, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the President of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of a Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. At the opening, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States and the Secretary-General of the Conference. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from other major groups in accordance with the practice of the General Assembly.

8. The closing plenary meeting, to be held in the afternoon of Thursday, 4 September, is expected to conclude with reporting on multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

9. The plenary meetings will run in parallel with the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, except for the opening and closing.

B. Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues

10. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:
   Monday, 1 September 2014: from 3 to 6 p.m.
   Tuesday, 2 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
   Wednesday, 3 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
   Thursday, 4 September 2014: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

11. The six high-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues are expected to provide, inter alia, an opportunity for:
   (a) Recognizing successful partnerships and initiatives in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Development States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcomes of the Conference;
   (b) Launching innovative and concrete partnerships and initiatives between Governments, international and regional organizations, multilateral institutions, major groups, the organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to support the advancement of the sustainable development of small island developing States;
   (c) Interactive and focused discussions on key priorities related to small island developing States.

12. The outcomes of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues should be reported to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

C. Main Committee

13. A Main Committee, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet if necessary in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings. The Main Committee will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

14. A Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

III. Accreditation: institutional stakeholders

15. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including associate members of the regional commissions, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

16. In addition, interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States may apply to the Preparatory Committee for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure. Information on accreditation will be available on the Conference website (www.sids2014.org).

IV. Secretariat

17. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities.

V. Documentation

18. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.
19. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

20. Summaries of the plenary meetings and multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues should also be included in the report of the Conference.

VI. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

21. Parallel meetings and other events, including those of major groups, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the partnership dialogues, space permitting. Interpretation services will be provided for such meetings, as available.

VII. Side events

22. Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the sustainable development of small island developing States, will be organized by participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing special events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

VIII. Media coverage

23. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available on the Conference website.

24. The plenary meetings, multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues and press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

On the same date (decision 68/550), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session.

Landlocked developing countries

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/222 [YUN 2012, p. 852], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/68/157] on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries [YUN 2003, p. 875].

According to the report, lack of access to the sea, the long distance from major international markets, cumbersome transit procedures and inadequate transport infrastructure continued to be the main factors behind the high costs of external trade transactions for landlocked developing countries. The Review Conference scheduled for 2014 would undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and build a development agenda to enable those countries to better integrate into the global trading system. The Conference would focus on ambitious and practical outcomes aimed at reducing the costs of trade through the establishment of efficient transit transport systems, stimulating industrialization, strengthening productive capacity, diversifying exports and strengthening resilience to external and internal shocks. Further efforts were required to reduce the high transport and trade transaction costs for landlocked developing countries by deepening regional cooperation and integration. The Secretary-General called on the international community to assist landlocked and transit developing countries by providing increased financial support to transit transport, ancillary roadside, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure and trade facilitation projects. Landlocked developing countries had to ensure the harmonization and transparency of legal and administrative regulations associated with transit transport, customs and border management, including by becoming parties to existing relevant agreements, and implementing them at the national level. While landlocked developing countries had to aim at diversifying their production and export base towards new markets, value-adding products and services, and joining global and regional value chains, developed countries had to ensure enhanced and predictable market access for products from landlocked developing countries. The international community had to provide financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to enable landlocked developing countries to take on the challenges caused by climate change, land degradation and desertification, in particular by putting in place effective adaptation strategies as a priority.

Communication. On 3 October [A/C.2/68/4], the Lao People’s Democratic Republic transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of the ministerial communiqué adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of landlocked developing countries at their twelfth annual meeting (New York, 30 September).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/441/Add.2], adopted resolution 68/225 without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].
Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,


Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Taking note of the communiqué of the Twelfth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2013,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

Recalling its resolution 66/214, in which it decided to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, which should be preceded, where necessary, by regional and global as well as thematic preparations,

Emphasizing that the result of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action should be the basis for further concerted global actions in support of landlocked developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries”;

2. Reaffirms the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. Also reaffirms that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. Calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and calls upon landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

5. Calls upon development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessory loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. Reaffirms its full commitment to urgently address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the declaration on the midterm review;

7. Invites Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions on the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the declaration on the midterm review in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, the completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to enhance intraregional connectivity and strengthen analytical capacities to assist in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive transport policies to support the transit corridors needed to facilitate trade, and in this regard encourages enhanced regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation which offers more appropriate, direct and effective solutions in addressing landlocked and transit country issues;

8. Expresses concern that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges faced by the international community, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and in protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

9. Encourages the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks through the development of a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used by the landlocked developing countries for early warning purposes;

10. **Underlines** the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation are particularly important in order for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness, resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

11. **Calls upon** development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

12. **Recognizes** that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technologies, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities;

13. **Encourages** the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

14. **Underlines** the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, and in this regard encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

15. **Recognizes** that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders, and in this regard encourages landlocked and transit developing countries to ratify and effectively implement, as appropriate, international conventions and agreements and regional and subregional agreements on transport and trade facilitation;

16. **Calls upon** the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the declaration on the mid-term review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

17. **Welcomes** the efforts made by Member States, including development partners, and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked and transit developing countries, encourages them to continue providing their support, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing efforts made by the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other relevant international and regional organizations, towards assisting in the elaboration of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highway;

18. **URGES** those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to accede to or to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to full operation, and invites the Office of the High Representative and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the think tank so that it can undertake its role;

19. **Notes with appreciation** the progress being made in the preparatory process for the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in its intergovernmental, inter-agency and private sector tracks, including the outcomes of the high-level global thematic meeting on international trade, trade facilitation and aid for trade, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 13 and 14 September 2012, and the regional review meetings on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, namely the Euro-Asia regional review meeting, held in Vientiane from 5 to 7 March 2013, the Africa regional review meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 July 2013, and the Latin America regional review meeting, held in Asunción on 18 and 19 November 2013;

20. **Welcomes** the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the 10-year Review Conference;
21. Requests the Office of the High Representative, as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the 10-year Review Conference, pursuant to resolution 66/214, and invites the United Nations Secretary-General to take necessary measures within existing resources to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

22. Requests the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the 10-year Review Conference itself;

23. Reiterates its invitation to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference and the participation of representatives of the landlocked developing countries in both the preparatory process and the 10-year Review Conference itself;

24. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the 10-year review Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

25. Recognizes the special challenges and needs of the landlocked developing countries, and stresses the need to give appropriate consideration to the landlocked developing countries in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries a report on the 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

27. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the outcome of the 10-year Review Conference;

28. Decides to reschedule the first and second sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee to later dates, and reaffirms that the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee will be held in New York in 2014, each for a duration of two working days, in the most cost-effective manner and within the budget allocated, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/222;

29. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organizational aspects of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, including the venue and the specific dates for the Conference and the two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, to be held for a duration of three days in 2014, in the most cost-effective manner and within the budget allocated, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/222, to be submitted to the Assembly not later than 15 January 2014 for its further consideration;

30. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, a sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries".