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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

**Report on the twenty-sixth session
(27–31 March 2023)**

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Note

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

Summary

At its twenty-sixth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development discussed the role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels and reviewed 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. In addition, the Commission considered the following two priority themes: “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation” and “Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production”. The session included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy reviews, as well as a segment on highlights of technical cooperation activities in the context of the work of the Commission.

During the ministerial round table on the theme “The role of science, technology and innovation in accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, ministers and other high-level speakers shared their perspectives on the challenges facing countries, particularly the developing countries, in harnessing the power of science, technology and innovation in achieving the goals under the 2030 Agenda. They emphasized the imperative of generating political will and creating greater synergies and cooperation among a country’s various actors, with a view to increasing public and private investment in scientific research, technological development and innovation, as well as enhancing human capital and the role of institutions. Moreover, enhanced international collaboration among Member States, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, through the transfer of technology and capacity-building is key to delivering on the promises of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. During the twenty-sixth session, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented its recently published *Technology and Innovation Report 2023*. In that publication, it is recognized that, while green technologies exist, to allow developing countries to capture what is offered by the green windows of opportunity, there is a need, apart from national efforts, for consistency among international agreements on trade, intellectual property and climate change in order to bring about the green technological revolution.

In discussing the two priority themes, speakers, including ministers, shared information on various initiatives and activities that were being carried out or implemented with the aim of leveraging the role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring safe water and sanitation for all and in seizing what can be achieved by opening the green windows of opportunity created by cleaner technologies in production. They called upon countries to enhance international cooperation, in particular through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, with a view to supporting developing countries, including least developed countries.

In considering the priority theme “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation”, speakers, including ministers, pointed out that the high demand for water from all sectors of a society, along with climate change, requires long-term water resource planning and integrated water resources management, as well as rapid and more precise responses to prepare for emergency situations. As the current sanitation systems are reaching a limit with respect to the number of people that can be served, it is imperative to invest in science, technology and innovation to help complement existing systems by increasing the

level of their performance or by providing knowledge that can aid underserved communities. Reducing the risk associated with market entry for commercial partners and stimulating the growth of a market ecosystem that drives demand for non-sewered sanitation services are equally important. Partnership with non-governmental organizations could play an effective role in helping underserved communities access water and sanitation. Countries should build a bridge between science and politics by creating a community of parliamentary experts to address water access challenges neutrally under the umbrella of science. While fostering the discovery of new technologies and innovations, countries must take actions to translate the application of technologies and innovations currently available, including digital technologies, into on-the-ground impact. Given the disproportionate burden imposed on women and girls by the lack of access to water and sanitation, it is necessary to involve women in the development of technological solutions for water and sanitation management.

In the discussion on the priority theme “Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production”, speakers, including ministers, recognized the green windows of opportunities created by rapid technological changes and climate change responses, including energy transition, while pointing out that there was a lack of awareness of such opportunities among producers in developing countries. Concerns have arisen about the differing speeds and capacities in inventing and implementing green technologies, especially about the risk of leaving the poorer and the poorest countries behind, as those countries often lack the requisite technological capability, human capital and skills, and finance. The international community must support such countries, including by facilitating joint initiatives and sharing technical know-how. As evidenced by the experience of leading green technology producers and adopters, the State plays a critical role in driving green transformation, as the uncertainties of emerging technology cause private sector firms, researchers and other actors to be hesitant to invest. Governments should, on the one hand, bring together industries, policymakers and business leaders to increase awareness of opportunities and, on the other hand, create a supportive policy environment which encourages innovation and investment in green technologies.

In reviewing the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, speakers and participants, including ministers, stressed the success that the World Summit process has achieved, including in spreading the benefits of information and communication technologies, while recognizing the large digital gap between and within countries following the rapid development of digital technologies that have built upon those technologies. The global digital compact under consultation among stakeholders provides an opportunity for strengthening international digital cooperation. The global digital compact would benefit from making full use of the existing knowledge and institutional memory maintained in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development after its central review of the progress made over more than 20 years in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society. At the twenty-sixth session, the Chair of the Commission presented his road map for the contribution of the Commission to the 20-year review. The road map outlined the ambitious scope of the activities that the Commission can undertake on its own or jointly with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Internet Governance Forum. In the discussion that followed, it was stressed that the Commission should prepare for the 20-year overall review based on the precedent of the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the

World Summit. The Chair called on interested donors to make financial contributions, without which it would be impossible to carry out all those activities.

Participants welcomed the launch of the science, technology and innovation policy reviews conducted by UNCTAD for Angola and Botswana. While each country had its specificities, challenges for both countries remained largely similar. Speakers from beneficiary countries hoped that UNCTAD would assist them in implementing the policy recommendations emanating from the review. There was a call for UNCTAD to continue its capacity-building activities regarding policy development and implementation. At the segment on highlights of technical cooperation activities in the context of the Commission, five capacity-building activities that were being conducted or planned to strengthen South-South and North-South cooperation under the auspices of the Commission were presented, ranging from knowledge and technology sharing to research capability building. In accordance with their aim of helping beneficiary countries implement two or more Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all of these programmes exhibit a strong focus on the priority issues identified by the Commission and have been carried out in response to the resolutions adopted at the latest annual sessions of the Commission. Several developing and least developed countries expressed interest at the meeting in participation in these activities.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions, entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development” and “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”.

The Commission selected “Data for development” and “Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development” as priority themes for consideration at its twenty-seventh session.

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

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Chapter I

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

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

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

Draft resolution I

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,¹

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 [2022/15](#) of 21 July 2022 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

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

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

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [77/150](#) of 14 December 2022 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, in which the Assembly recognized the important role of information and communications technologies for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and looked forward to the development of a global digital compact to strengthen digital cooperation through an open and inclusive process,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled “The age of digital interdependence”, and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”, as well as the establishment of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [77/160](#) of 14 December 2022 on entrepreneurship for sustainable development,

¹ See [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

² General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

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,³

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

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

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

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

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

4. *Reaffirms* the 2005 Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,⁴ in which was recognized the special and specific funding needs of the developing world, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the 2003 Geneva Declaration of Principles,⁵ which faces numerous challenges in the information and communications technology sector, and that there is a strong need to focus on the special financing needs of developing countries in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution [70/125](#) to close the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, access to information and knowledge, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy, acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and groups in vulnerable situations;

6. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁶ as called for in General Assembly resolution [70/125](#), highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

7. *Reaffirms* its understanding that the success of the 2030 Agenda will depend on increasing access to information and communications technology;

8. *Recognizes* that information and communications technology infrastructure is fundamental to achieving the goal of digital inclusion and that digital divides persist across income groups, age groups, geography and gender, and therefore recalls its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, target 9.c, which aims to significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strives to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of the Connect 2030

³ [A/78/62-E/2023/49](#).

⁴ See [A/60/687](#).

⁵ See [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex

⁶ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development;

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

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

11. *Encourages* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue to give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the respective mandates and existing resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/150](#);

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

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

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

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

16. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private

sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

17. *Underscores* the importance of and encourages continued collaboration between the follow-up and review process of the World Summit and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

19. *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;

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

21. *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 database;

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

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

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

25. *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;

26. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband Internet has further accelerated during the pandemic, so that in 2022, 95 per cent of the world's population were living within range of a mobile broadband network and 5.3 billion people or 66 per cent of the world's population were using the Internet, in line with the World Summit targets; the value of this progress is enhanced by the advent of new electronic and mobile services and applications for health, agriculture, education, business, development, financial and government services, civic participation and transactional services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

27. *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, data management, and promote digital literacy to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

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

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

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

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

32. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment and emerging digital platforms and services is leading to significant

changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

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

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

35. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the vital importance of multilingualism and local content in the information society, and urges all stakeholders to encourage the creation of, and access to, educational, cultural and scientific content online so as to promote quality of access and ensure that all people and cultures can express themselves and have access to the Internet in all languages, including Indigenous languages;

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

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

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

39. *Recalls* the *Digital Economy Report 2021* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which examines the role of cross-border data flows for development in maximizing equitable development gains, while minimizing risks and impacts of a potential fragmentation in the digital space;

40. *Welcomes* the holding of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 2022, and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development eCommerce Week, from 25 to 29 April 2022;

41. *Takes note* of the latest global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2022 – Accelerating Broadband for New Realities*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an

enabling environment for affordable and reliable broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

42. *Recalls* the launching by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development of the 2025 targets to support “connecting the other half” and to help to bring online the 3.8 billion of the world’s people who are not connected to the Internet;

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

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

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

46. *Further welcomes*, in this regard, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted on 23 November 2021;⁷

47. *Notes* that the International Telecommunication Union has established partnerships with more than 40 other United Nations entities to convene the AI for Good platform;

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

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

50. *Also recalls* the holding of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva from 1 to 9 March 2022;

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

52. *Looks forward* to the holding of the eighteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium in Geneva on 3 and 4 July 2023 on the theme “Advancing the measurement agenda to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity”;

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

⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Forty-first Session, Paris, 9–24 November 2021*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, annex VII.

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

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

56. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Development Programme, including the publication of its Digital Strategy, which is aimed at applying the potential of digital technology to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

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

59. *Notes with great concern* the fact that the digital gender divide has increased on a global level by 20 million between 2021 and 2022 – 63 per cent of women are now using the Internet compared with 69 per cent of men – and that women remain digitally marginalized in many of the world's poorest countries, draws attention to the gender digital divide, which persists in women's access to and use of information and communications technologies, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development, and, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, calls upon Member States to adopt all appropriate measures, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education and participation in information and communications technologies, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

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

countries promoting opportunities for women and girls in information and communications technologies, as well as the work of many other stakeholders on this issue;

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

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

63. *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;

64. *Acknowledges* the more than 600 pledges in the International Telecommunication Union Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (also known as P2C), which aims to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally with a focus on developing countries, including landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, aligned with World Summit action lines and the Sustainable Development Goals;

65. *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;

66. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating and adapting to climate change, disaster response, social networking, cultural and linguistic diversity, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, community networks, the gender digital divide, cybersecurity, the protection of privacy and freedom of expression as defined in articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁸ and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

67. *Reaffirms* that, in the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually,⁹ and recognizes the value of the Forum in enhancing cooperation, partnership, innovation and the exchange of experiences and good practices by all stakeholders in information and communications technologies for sustainable development;

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 70/125.

68. *Notes* the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union and jointly organized by the Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from 30 May to 3 June 2022, under the theme “ICTs for well-being, inclusion and resilience: WSIS cooperation for accelerating progress on the SDGs”, also notes the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2023, from 13 to 17 March 2023, under the theme “WSIS action lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs”, and further notes the holding of the WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event in Geneva, from 27 to 31 May 2024, and the upcoming open consultation process, which aims to ensure wide participation in and broad ownership of the Forum;

69. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action¹⁰ as the framework for identifying practical measures to use information and communications technologies to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda, noting the World Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, developed by United Nations agencies;

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

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

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

Internet governance

73. *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;

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

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

Enhanced cooperation

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

77. *Recalls* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/125](#), to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as

¹⁰ See [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex.

envisioned in the Tunis Agenda, and also notes that the Working Group ensured the full involvement of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, taking into account all their diverse views and expertise;

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

79. *Further recalls* the report of the Chair of the Working Group,¹¹ which includes references to the full texts of all proposals and contributions, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and all participants who submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

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

Internet Governance Forum

81. *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;

82. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution [70/125](#), to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further 10 years, during which time the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

83. *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;

84. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution [70/125](#), in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;¹²

85. *Notes* the holding of the seventeenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, organized in Addis Ababa from 28 November to 2 December 2022, under the theme “Resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future”;

86. *Looks forward to* the holding of the holding of the eighteenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be organized in Kyoto, Japan, from 8 to 12 October 2023 under the theme “The Internet we want – empowering all people”, and the continued implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum that are applicable for its preparatory process;

87. *Welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice

¹¹ See E/CN.16/2018/CRP.3.

¹² [A/67/65-E/2012/48](#) and [A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1](#).

forums and policy networks, as well as the contributions of national and regional Internet governance forums;

The road ahead

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

89. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divides, and fostering digital inclusion, in their 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 in order to reach individuals in vulnerable situations, including access to reliable and affordable broadband at the grass-roots level, including through participative models, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries towards building information and knowledge societies;

90. *Invites* all stakeholders to take an active part in the WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event in Geneva, from 27 to 31 May 2024, including the multi-stakeholder consultations on achievements, key trends, challenges and opportunities on World Summit action lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

92. *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 divides;

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

94. *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;

95. *Recognizes* that, in line with paragraph 4 above, financing of information and communications technologies for development needs to be placed in the context of the growing importance of the role of information and communications technologies, not only as a medium of communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

96. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;¹³

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the *Measuring Digital Development* series, which provides information on recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

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

101. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the

¹³ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

Governments of Finland, Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to this fund;

102. *Recalls* the proposal in General Assembly resolution [70/125](#) that the Assembly hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2025, *welcomes* the road map outlining the contributions of the Commission on Science Technology and Development to the overall review, and *encourages* Member States to provide financial or other support for its implementation;

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

104. *Requests* the Commission on Science Technology and Development to collect inputs from member States, all facilitators and other stakeholders and to organize, during its twenty-seventh session, in 2024, and its twenty-eighth session, in 2025, substantive discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the past 20 years, and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly;

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

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

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

108. *Highlights* the ongoing discussions on the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation”¹⁴ and the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,¹⁵ including the global digital compact, relevant to the World Summit, and in this regard calls for further transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the way forward, consistent with the World Summit outcomes, and *underlines* the importance of ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication across various entities;

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

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

¹⁴ [A/74/821](#).

¹⁵ [A/75/982](#).

Draft resolution II
Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development, and as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies,

Recognizing also the critical role 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 as enablers of development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome² and General Assembly resolution [70/125](#) of 16 December 2015, entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also the entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,³

Recalling further that, in its resolution [77/165](#) of 14 December 2022, the General Assembly acknowledged that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries and emphasized the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity,

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

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

³ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolutions [74/229](#) of 19 December 2019 and [76/213](#) of 17 December 2021 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies and ensuring that such policies and programmes are supportive of national development agendas,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2021/254 of 22 July 2021 providing for the extension, until 2025, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions [70/132](#) of 17 December 2015 and [70/213](#) and [70/219](#) of 22 December 2015 addressing, respectively, the barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session,⁴ in which it, inter alia, highlighted the need for managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for economic empowerment in the changing world of work,

Recalling further the outcome document of the forum entitled "Investment in women and girls in science for inclusive green growth", held in New York on 11 and 12 February 2019 to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science,⁵

Recalling the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation at the workshop held in Vienna on 18 January 2019, and during the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on 21 May 2021, as well as the work of the Commission on tackling science, technology and innovation from a development perspective, including seminars and workshops on science, technology and innovation organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat of the Commission,

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divides, particularly the digital gender divide, as addressed by the EQUALS global partnership and the #eSkills4Girls initiative of the Group of 20,

Encouraging initiatives that promote the role of women in science, technology and innovation in developing countries, including the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards, the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World Early Career Fellowships for women and the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence for women,

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7 (E/2017/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

⁵ [A/73/798](#), annex I.

Recognizing that capabilities, such as basic education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics, design, management and entrepreneurial skills, are central for effective innovation, but are unevenly distributed across and within countries, and that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels are essential and should be promoted, prioritized and coordinated, in order to create a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, in the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore highlighting their role as enablers of the 2030 Agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and recalling also the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Highlighting the contribution that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development can make to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, bearing in mind its mandate to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders for achieving Sustainable Development Goals supported by science, technology and innovation,

Recalling that, in its resolution [72/228](#) of 20 December 2017, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission to promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development,

Recalling also that, in the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission to discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means of attracting new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate,

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

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

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [72/242](#) of 22 December 2017, [73/17](#) of 26 November 2018 and [75/316](#) of 17 August 2021, in which the Assembly requested the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, to give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological

changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existing resources,

Taking note of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development *Technology and Innovation Report 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-carbon World*,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, “Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production” and “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation”,

Recalling the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews that has been developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist countries in better aligning science, technology and innovation policies with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,⁶

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

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

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

Recognizing that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems⁷ play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

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

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁸ including the principles referred to therein,

Recognizing the need to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing also that people around the world are affected by shocks, from economic crises to health emergencies, from social conflicts and war to disasters caused by natural hazards, and that these shocks have a severe impact on the progress towards achieving sustainable development,

Recalling that, in its resolution [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, the General Assembly called upon Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote research and capacity-building initiatives, as well as to enhance cooperation on and

⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2019/4.

⁷ The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

⁸ General Assembly resolution [66/288](#), annex.

access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner and on mutually agreed terms in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the set of voluntary commitments known as the Water Action Agenda, a main outcome of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, held in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, and the need to urgently address the global water challenges,

Recognizing also the key role of science, technology and innovation in enabling catalytic actions towards achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation,

Taking into account the importance of national strategies and policies related to green technology and green innovation for cleaner, more productive and competitive production, and the role of international cooperation, including triangular and South-South cooperation, in supporting developing countries to benefit from windows of opportunity,

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

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

Noting also that science, technology and innovation policies must be aligned to address the three dimensions of sustainable development, specifically, economic development, social progress and environmental protection,

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

Encouraging the design and implementation of public policies that address the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

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

Noting also various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation to explore important issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

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

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in

information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

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

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

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

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

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

(vii) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long terms and address such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of gender-responsive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, vocational training and digital and data literacy;

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

(ix) To incorporate the provision of digital competencies, including but not limited to entrepreneurship and complementary soft skills, in formal education curricula and lifelong learning initiatives, while taking into consideration best practices, local contexts and needs, and ensuring that education is technology-neutral;

(x) To implement measures to take advantage of opening new windows of opportunity as a basis for sustainable development by establishing national mechanisms for coordination and promoting clean technology diffusion;

- (xi) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;
- (xii) To conduct technology assessment and foresight exercises as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders towards creating a shared understanding of the implications of rapid technological change;
- (xiii) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation into the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (xiv) To conduct assessments, including of gender-sensitive aspects, of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States, and, on a voluntary basis, to provide financial support and expertise towards the implementation of the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in interested developing countries;
- (xv) To recognize the need to promote the functional dynamics of innovation systems and other relevant methodologies based on diversified policy instruments to support science, technology and innovation development priorities, in order to strengthen the coherence of such systems for sustainable development;
- (xvi) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach, including gender-responsive approaches, to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
- (xvii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship and making available disaggregated data sources for science, technology and innovation;
- (xviii) To implement initiatives and programmes that encourage and facilitate sustainable investment and participation in the digital economy;
- (xix) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability, encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (xx) To promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and statistical literacy, particularly among female students, while also recognizing the importance of complementary soft skills, such as entrepreneurship, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective when developing and implementing policies that harness science, technology and innovation;
- (xxi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial

and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(xxii) To encourage countries to progressively increase the rate of generation of high-quality skilled human resources at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, solving problems and enhancing human welfare;

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

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

(xxv) To design and implement science, technology and innovation policies and other relevant policies and initiatives to leverage and scale up innovative practices and technologies for ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation at the country level and to support the implementation of voluntary commitments that constitute the Water Action Agenda, as well as to promote development and innovation;

(xxvi) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xxvii) To encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local communities, women and youth, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

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

(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues, and in this regard to contribute to informing the high-level thematic debate on the topic of the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, and to the discussion of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions [73/17](#) and [75/316](#) that will be held at its seventy-eighth session;

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

- (iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;
- (v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹ international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;
- (vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;
- (vii) To support multi-stakeholder collaboration in policy learning capacity-building and technology development, including to support the participation of actors in the innovation systems of Member States in international networks and programmes to continue to build their capacity in innovation;
- (viii) To support efforts to build capacity to develop, use and deploy new and existing technologies in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;
- (ix) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;
- (x) To explore ways and means of conducting international technology assessments and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies and their implications for sustainable development and building resilient communities, including discussions about models of governance for new areas of scientific and technological development;
- (xi) To support countries in their efforts to identify future trends in terms of capacity-building needs, including through foresight exercises;
- (xii) To discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;
- (xiii) To promote cooperation through the conduct of capacity-building and research and development initiatives among Member States, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

⁹ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

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

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

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

(xvii) To strengthen and deepen collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, including sharing good practices and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation, and, in this context, to follow up on the work done by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at the workshop on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation, held in Vienna on 18 January 2019;

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (v) To request the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policy reviews;
- (vi) The Commission appreciated the contribution of the Gender Advisory Board to the discussions of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, in particular at the high-level panel on *ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation*;
- (vii) To encourage Governments to use the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to support science, technology and innovation in least developed countries and to assist least developed countries to further develop their own technologies;
- (viii) To continue to provide support for the States members of the Commission in their joint initiatives aimed at promoting science, technology and innovation in line with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

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

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-sixth session;¹

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

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development: priority themes:

(a) Data for development;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 11 (E/2023/31).*

Chapter II

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

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 6th meeting, on 29 March 2023. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General 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 ([A/78/62-E/2023/49](#));

(b) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the intersessional panel meeting, held in Geneva, in a hybrid format, on 25 and 26 October 2022 (E/CN.16/2023/CRP.1).

4. At its 6th meeting, on 29 March, the Commission held a high-level panel meeting, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Hungary).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Head of the secretariat of the Commission introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

6. Presentations were made by the following two panellists: Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, Amandeep Singh Gill; and Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union, Tomas Lamanauskas. In the interactive discussion that followed, interventions were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Saudi Arabia, to which the panellists responded.

7. Presentations were also made by the following panellists: Chair, Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group, Internet Governance Forum, Paul Mitchell; and Executive Director, IT for Change (India), Anita Gurumurthy. Remarks were made by the Chair of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Mathu Joyini; and the Chief, Section for Digital Policies and Digital Transformation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Cédric Wachholz, on behalf of the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO, Tawfik Jelassi. A briefing was provided by Johan Ekerhult, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, on behalf of the co-Chair, global digital compact consultations, and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Anna Karin Eneström. The briefing was followed by the remarks of the following discussant: David Souter, Managing Director, ict Development Associates.

8. Also at the 6th meeting, a ministerial discussion ensued, in which the following participants took part: Deputy Permanent Secretary (Technical), Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy of the Gambia, Malang Bass, on behalf of the Minister of Communication and Digital Economy of the Gambia, Ousman A. Bah; Minister of Transport and Communications of Peru, Paola Pierina Lazarte Castillo; Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology of Botswana, Thulagano Segokgo; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Information Technology and Media of Burundi, Ferdinand Manirakiza, on behalf of the Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media of Burundi, Léocadie Ndacayisaba; and Assistant Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines, Edwin Ligot.

9. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Commission (Peru) presented the road map of the Commission for the 20-year review of the implementation of the outcomes

of the World Summit on the Information Society. A general discussion ensued in which the Commission heard interventions by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Oman, Cuba, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and France and the observers for Sweden, on behalf of the European Union, and the State of Palestine, followed by the concluding remarks of the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD.

Action taken by the Commission

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

10. At its closing plenary meeting, on 31 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Hungary) and circulated in an informal paper in English only. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

11. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III

Science and technology for development

Priority themes:

- (a) **Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production**
- (b) **Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation**

12. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 5th meetings, from 27 to 29 March 2023. It had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production ([E/CN.16/2023/2](#));
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation ([E/CN.16/2023/3](#));
- (c) Report on the intersessional panel meeting, held in Geneva, in a hybrid format, on 25 and 26 October 2022 ([E/CN.16/2023/CRP.1](#)).

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 27 March, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the 2023 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Gambia).

14. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented the *Technology and Innovation Report 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-carbon World*.

15. Also at the 2nd meeting, remarks were made by the two co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals 2023, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Mathu Joyini and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Economic and Social Council, Thomas Woodroffe, as well as the Chair of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar).

16. The following participants took part in the ministerial round table: Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Angola, Maria do Rosário Sambo; Pierre Gomez, Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of the Gambia, represented by Mucktarr Darboe, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of the Gambia; Deputy Minister for Research, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peiman Salehi; Undersecretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Philippines, Leah J. Buendia; Minister for Communication and Information Technology of Nepal, Rekha Sharma, represented by Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology of Botswana, Thulagano Segokgo; Minister of Communications of Cuba, Mayra Arevich Marín; Minister of Education and Science of Latvia, Anda Čakša; Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media of Burundi, Léocadie Ndacayisaba; Vice-Minister of Science and Technology of India, Srivari Chandrasekhar; President of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation of Peru, Benjamin Abelardo Marticorena Castillo; Undersecretary of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of

Ecuador, Xavier Paz; and Acting Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Allison Schwier. A general discussion ensued in which statements were made by the representatives of Oman and Paraguay and the observer for Yemen.

17. Statements were made by a representative of the Observatory on Digital Communication (OCCAM), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society, and a representative of academia from the University of Oxford. This was followed by a right of reply from the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yemen.

18. At its 3rd meeting, on 28 March, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the second priority theme, “Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation”, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Portugal).

19. At the same meeting, the Head of the Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, of UNCTAD introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the second priority theme ([E/CN.16/2023/3](#)).

20. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Philippines, Leah J. Buendia; Professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia in Spain and Vice-President of the International Water Association, Enrique Cabrera; Deputy Director of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Doulaye Kone; and Distinguished Scholar in Water Resources Management at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, Sucharit Koontanakulvong. The panel discussion was followed by the remarks of a discussant and member of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission Sophia Huyer.

21. In the general discussion that followed, interventions were made by the representatives of Botswana, the United States of America, Latvia, Egypt, Cuba, Paraguay, China, Japan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the observers for Yemen, Thailand and the State of Palestine. Interventions were also made by the Chairperson of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Working Group on Science and Technology and a representative of the V H Group, a private sector organization. Concluding remarks were made by the panellists.

22. At its 4th meeting, on 28 March, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the first priority theme, “Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production”, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Saudi Arabia).

23. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD and Head of the secretariat of the Commission introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the first priority theme ([E/CN.16/2023/2](#)).

24. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Vice-Minister of Science and Technology of India, Srivari Chandrasekhar; Professor of Technology and International Development at the University of Oxford, Xiaolan Fu; and Innovation Director at the National Confederation of Industry of Brazil, Gianna Sagazio. The panel was followed by an intervention by a discussant, the Manager of the Means of Implementation Division of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, Ariesta Ningrum.

25. Also at the 4th meeting, a ministerial intervention was made by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Philippines, Leah J. Buendia. A general discussion ensued, during which interventions were made by

the representatives of Türkiye, China, Latvia, Paraguay, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Belize, the Gambia and Israel and the observers for the Dominican Republic, Yemen, Germany and the State of Palestine.

26. A statement was made by the representative of the International Telecommunication Union on both the first and the second priority themes.

27. Interventions were made by the representatives of the Observatory on Digital Communication (OCCAM) and a member of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, Alice Abreu.

28. At the 5th meeting of the Commission, on 29 March, the representative of Egypt delivered comments on the first priority theme.

Action taken by the Commission

Science, technology and innovation for development

29. At its closing meeting, on 31 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chair (Gambia) and circulated in English only. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

30. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Chapter IV

Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

31. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 29 March 2023. The 5th meeting was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Gambia).

32. At the 5th meeting, the Chief of the Technology and Innovation Policy Section, Division on Technology and Logistics, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Angola presented the overview of the study on innovation and entrepreneurship for Angola. A representative of the Science, Technology and Innovation for Development Section, Division on Technology and Logistics, of UNCTAD presented the overview of the science, technology and innovation policy review report and the technology foresight report for Botswana.

33. Remarks on the follow-up and the way forward were made by the Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Angola, Maria do Rosário Sambo; and the Acting Permanent Secretary – Research, Science and Technology, Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology of Botswana, Lesego Thamae, who spoke on behalf of the Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology of Botswana, Thulagano Segokgo.

34. Following these presentations, a general discussion ensued and interventions were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Brazil and South Africa and the observers for Mauritania and the State of Palestine. The ministerial representatives of Angola and Botswana responded to questions.

35. At the same meeting, highlights of the various technical cooperation activities related to the work of the Commission were presented. The Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD provided an overview of technical cooperation activities in the context of the work of the Commission. Presentations were made on the CropWatch Innovative Cooperation Programme of the Alliance of International Science Organizations and the Academy of Sciences of China, the Young Female Scientist Programme and the Young Scientist PhD Programme at Okayama University (Japan), the Bio-Circular-Green growth model of Thailand Science Research and Innovation, and the activities on satellite technologies for sustainable urban development of the Atlantic International Research Centre in Portugal.

36. At the 6th meeting, the Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines, Leah J. Buendia, introduced a proposal of the Philippines on technical cooperation in building the disaster resilience of countries through science, technology and innovation. The proposal had been formulated in response to the call of the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution [2019/25](#) of 23 July 2019, for the identification of policy recommendations on harnessing science, technology and innovation in the field of disaster risk reduction. Ms. Buendia invited members of Commission who were interested to contribute to the financial cost of this technical cooperation project.

Chapter V

Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission

37. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its closing plenary meeting, on 31 March 2023.

38. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its twenty-seventh session:

Chair:

Ana Cristina **Amoroso das Neves** (Portugal)

Vice-Chairs:

Muhammadou M.O. **Kah** (Gambia)

Peter **Major** (Hungary)

Luis Juan **Chuquihuara Chil** (Peru)

39. The Commission postponed the election of the Vice-Chair from the Asia-Pacific States.

40. The Commission also postponed the appointment of the Rapporteur, from among the Vice-Chairs, until the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission

41. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its closing plenary meeting, on 31 March 2023. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-seventh session.

42. The Commission adopted the priority themes for the twenty-seventh session and the draft decision to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council concerning the report on the twenty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-seventh session. The Commission decided to recommend the decision to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B). At the closing meeting, the Chair announced that the twenty-seventh session of the Commission would be held from 18 to 22 March 2024.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session

43. At the closing plenary meeting, on 31 March 2023, the Chair of the Commission informed members that the report of the session would be prepared after the conclusion of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and would include a summary of the session, the draft resolutions and decision for adoption by the Council and procedural matters. The Commission recommended to the Council that it take note of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session through a draft decision adopted at the closing plenary meeting on 31 March 2023 (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

44. The Commission held its twenty-sixth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 27 to 31 March 2023. The Commission held seven meetings (1st to 7th).

45. On 27 March, the twenty-sixth session of the Commission was opened by the Chair, Luis Juan Chuquihuara Chil (Peru).

46. During the opening plenary meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union made statements.

47. The Commission heard a video message from the President of the Economic and Social Council, Lachezara Stoeva.

48. At its 1st meeting, on 27 March, the Commission held an interactive discussion entitled “A conversation with great minds”, which was moderated by Julia Sieger, presenter of the programme *Tech24* at the news network France 24. The panellists were Karen Scrivener, Full Professor at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland); and Hiroshi Amano, Professor at the Institute of Materials and Systems for Sustainability of Nagoya University (Japan). During the interactive debate, the panellists responded to the comments and questions of the representatives of the Gambia, Portugal, Peru, Algeria and Austria, the observers for Angola and Mauritania and the representative of the V H Group, a private sector organization.

B. Attendance

49. The list of participants for the session is contained in document [E/CN.16/2023/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

50. Nominations for the office of Chair of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission were considered under silence procedure, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2022/312.

51. The Commission elected, under a silence procedure that ended on 3 March 2023, the following officer for its twenty-sixth session:

Chair:

Luis Juan **Chuquihuara Chil** (Peru)

D. Agenda and organization of work

52. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.16/2023/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

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

3. Science and technology for development:
Priority themes:
 - (a) Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production;
 - (b) Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation.
 4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
 5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.
 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.
53. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

E. Documentation

54. The list of documents before the Commission at its twenty-sixth session is contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its twenty-sixth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
E/CN.16/2023/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
A/78/62-E/2023/49	2	Report of the Secretary-General 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
E/CN.16/2023/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production
E/CN.16/2023/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation
E/CN.16/2023/CRP.1^a	3	Report on the intersessional panel meeting (25–26 October 2022)
E/CN.16/2023/INF/1		List of participants

^a Available at https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162023crp1_en.pdf.

