

Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2009, with the world economy mired in the worst financial and economic crisis since the Second World War, most advanced economies were already in recession, and the outlook for emerging and other developing economies was deteriorating rapidly, including those with a recent history of strong economic performance. Key issues in development policy and international economic cooperation for the United Nations included the global recession, including its relation to the food crisis; policy responses, including reform of the international monetary and financial system; and climate change mitigation and development, along with human mobility. The General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in promoting international cooperation for development, and to continue working towards a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, cooperation and solidarity among States.

Sustainable development remained a major focus of UN system work in the context of international economic relations. The Commission on Sustainable Development reviewed progress in the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and implementation of Agenda 21, the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Jointly with Namibia, the Commission organized a high-level meeting (Windhoek, Namibia, 9–10 February) whose resultant Ministerial Declaration called for an integrated response by African countries and the international community in support of sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches, and stressed the importance of food security and strengthening the agriculture sector in Africa. The Commission's high-level segment (13–15 May) addressed the thematic cluster for its 2008–2009 implementation cycle: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

The Economic and Social Council, at its high-level segment (6–9 July), held a special event on Africa and the least developed countries, along with a high-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy. The Council also reviewed implementation of its 2008 Ministerial Declaration on

implementing the internationally agreed sustainable development goals and commitments.

With regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General provided an update to the General Assembly on actions taken by Governments, UN system organizations and major groups in advancing the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets, including through partnerships. In December, the General Assembly decided to organize, in 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and accepted the offer of Brazil to host the event.

The eradication of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained a major focus of UN system attention. The General Assembly reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), and decided that the high-level plenary meeting of its sixty-fifth (2010) session would focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the MDGs by 2015.

At its twelfth session (Geneva, 25–29 May), the Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered regional and international progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. In a March report to the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General presented responses provided by 20 international and regional organizations on trends, achievements and obstacles to implementation of those outcomes. To strengthen cybersecurity, the General Assembly in December endorsed a voluntary self-assessment tool for national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures.

As for development policy and public administration, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), at its eleventh session (New York, 9–13 March) addressed international cooperation on global public health, particularly the importance of tackling inequalities; the global financial turmoil and its impact on developing countries; and climate change and development. The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its eighth session (New York, 30 March–3 April), considered as its main theme the human factor in capacity-building for develop-

ment, along with a review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance and mainstreaming of health issues and human-capacity building in public administration.

Finally, the UN system continued to address the development problems of groups of countries in special situation. CDP conducted its triennial review of the list of the least developed countries (LDCs), and found two countries—Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe—eligible for inclusion in the list of LDCs; however, both declined to join the category. The number of countries officially designated as LDCs remained at 49. The General Assembly in December decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Turkey in the first half of 2011. The Assembly also decided on the structure of the high-level review, planned for 2010, of progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. In addition, the Assembly reviewed progress in the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the related 2005 Mauritius Strategy, as well as of the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action for assisting landlocked developing countries.

International economic relations

Development and international economic cooperation

International economic cooperation issues were considered in 2009 by various UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

On 27 April, the Economic and Social Council held in New York its twelfth special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see p. 940).

On 21 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/64/418] on its discussion of macroeconomic policy questions (**decision 64/540**).

High-level segment of Economic and Social Council

In accordance with its decision 2008/257 [YUN 2008, p. 1339], the Economic and Social Council, at the high-level segment of its 2009 substantive session (Geneva, 6–9 July) [A/64/3/Rev.1], discussed the theme of “Current global and national trends and their impact on social development, including public health”

(see p. 1226). Following its annual ministerial review, on 9 July, the Council adopted the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment, entitled “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health” (see p. 1227). It also held a special event on Africa and the least developed countries (LDCs) and a high-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions on developments in the world economy.

The Council had before it a May report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields [E/2009/15 & Add.1], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 1823(XVII) [YUN 1962, p. 266] and Economic and Social Council resolution 1817(LV) [YUN 1973, p. 449]. The report examined how the different regions were being affected by and were responding to the economic and financial crisis, how their efforts could be enhanced, and how the United Nations regional commissions were supporting Member States. It also covered developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation, efforts to promote coherence at the regional level, and cooperation among the commissions.

Policy dialogue. On 6 July, the Council held a high-level policy dialogue on developments in the world economy with the international financial and trade institutions of the UN system.

Communications. On 12 May [A/64/81], Namibia, as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of a resolution adopted by the 120th Assembly of the IPU (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10 April) on the role of parliaments in mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 4 June [A/63/893], the Syrian Arab Republic transmitted the Damascus Declaration on responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region, adopted at the Regional High-Level Consultative Forum on the Impacts of the International Financial Crisis on ESCWA Member Countries (Damascus, Syria, 5–7 May).

On 30 September [A/64/489], the Sudan, as Chairman of the Group of 77, transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-third annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (New York, 25 September), which reviewed the world economic situation and addressed development challenges facing developing countries, particularly in the context of the world financial and economic as well as food crisis, volatile energy prices and climate change, insofar as those could undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Globalization and interdependence

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/222 [YUN 2008, p. 904], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/64/310] on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence. In response to General Assembly resolution 63/224 [YUN 2008, p. 909], the Secretary-General also provided an overview of the international economic and policy challenges for achieving equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and the corresponding role of the United Nations. The report examined strains placed on the global trade and investment system by the economic crisis; its effects on poverty reduction, including food insecurity; and its consequences for sustainable development. Commodity prices and trade and investment flows had declined as a result of the crisis, the brunt of which was being borne by the poorest and most vulnerable populations of developing countries. If aid flows continued to decline, the impact would be even more devastating for low-income countries and the poor. The Secretary-General outlined a Global Sustainable New Deal to establish a new public policy agenda placing countries on a different development pathway, protecting the natural resource base in an equitable manner without compromising job creation and catch-up growth. He called for the developed world to consider the impact of its responses to the crisis on developing countries, and for the latter to implement policies enabling them to make their economies more robust. The United Nations could ensure dialogue and enable a coordinated response based on inclusive decision-making, and could provide impartial analysis and pragmatic policy recommendations.

On 21 December (**decision 64/541**), the Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee [A/64/422 & Add.1] on its discussion of globalization and interdependence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/422/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/210** without vote [agenda item 55 (a)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/199 of 19 December 2007 and 63/222 of 19 December 2008 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Recalling also the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,

Recalling further its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/199 of 19 December 2008 on social justice for a fair globalization, in which the Assembly took note with interest of the adoption of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular those that have built upon the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in the economic, social and related fields, including Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 entitled "Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals",

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Reaffirming also the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all,

Recognizing that globalization, driven largely by economic liberalization and technology, implies that the economic performance of a country is increasingly affected by factors outside its geographical borders and that maximizing in an equitable manner the benefits of globalization requires developing responses to globalization through a strengthened global partnership for development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recognizes* that some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and have benefited from globalization but that many others, especially the least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, and recognizes also that, as stated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the benefits are very unevenly shared, while the costs are unevenly distributed;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to sup-

port sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

4. *Welcomes* the joint crisis initiative launched by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2009 to provide coordination on social protection floors, which aims at advocating for and advising on the provision of social protection floors and public spending in ways that will both kick-start growth and support more inclusive and sustainable social and economic development;

5. *Recognizes* that policies which link economic and social development can contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries with a view to guaranteeing that the poor and vulnerable groups maximize their benefits from economic growth and development;

6. *Notes with concern* the unprecedented rise in unemployment as a consequence of the current global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to consider assisting developing countries to implement the resolution entitled "Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact" adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, in consultation and cooperation with the International Labour Organization;

7. *Stresses* the need for all countries to harness knowledge and technology and stimulate innovation if they are to improve their competitiveness and benefit from trade and investment, and in this regard underlines the importance of concrete actions to facilitate the transfer of technology under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms to developing countries in support of the implementation of their sustainable development strategies;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence" the sub-item entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence".

New international economic order

In 2009, the year marking the thirty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order [YUN 1974, p. 306], the General Assembly took action on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/422/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/209** by recorded vote (124-0-50) [agenda item 55 (a)].

Towards a New International Economic Order

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to promote the economic advancement and social progress of all peoples,

Recalling the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as set out in resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI), respectively, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, on 1 May 1974,

Taking into account the fact that the year 2009 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 63/224 of 19 December 2008,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the development goals and objectives contained therein, and recognizing the vital role played by those conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives,

Concerned that the current international economic, financial, energy and food crises, as well as the challenges posed by climate change, aggravate the existing international situation and have a negative impact on the development prospects of developing countries, while threatening to further widen the gap between developed and developing countries, including the technological and income gap,

1. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working towards a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, cooperation and solidarity among all States;

2. *Decides* to continue considering the international economic situation and its impact on development during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", an overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues, in the light of the relevant principles contained in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 64/209:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon

Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Development cooperation with middle-income countries

In response to resolution 663/223 [YUN 2008, p. 906], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/64/253] on development cooperation with middle-income countries. The report focused on strategies and actions of the UN system with regard to development cooperation with middle-income countries, taking into account the work of other international organizations, including international financial institutions. As home to almost two thirds of the world's poor, middle-income countries were of considerable importance for promoting the UN agenda of development for all, including the achievement of the MDGs. Accounting for two thirds of the world population and almost 40 per cent of world gross product, they also played an increasing role in advancing equitable and sustainable growth of the world economy. The report examined progress in the development of, as well as challenging international economic conditions for, middle-income countries. It described major achievements in UN development cooperation with middle-income countries, along with the engagement of international financial institutions. According to the Secretary-General, the UN system needed a better-defined agenda to address both the common and the idiosyncratic challenges that middle-income countries faced. Priorities should be given to perennial development challenges such as poverty eradication and financial stability, and to emerging issues, especially climate change. The UN system should also enhance its support of South-South cooperation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/422/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/208** without vote [agenda item 55 (a)].

Development cooperation with middle-income countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations major international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, as well as the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions,

Reaffirming its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007, entitled "Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", in which it recognized that middle-income developing countries still face significant challenges in the area of poverty eradication and that efforts to address those challenges should be supported in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, including through support to the effective development of comprehensive cooperation policies,

Recalling its resolution 63/223 of 19 December 2008,

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

Noting that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries, and recognizing the significant diversity of middle income countries,

Recognizing that, despite the achievements and efforts of middle-income countries, a significant number of people are still living in poverty and inequalities remain, and that further investment in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce those inequalities,

Recognizing also the actions that middle-income countries have taken to address their particular challenges and the needs of their people, and recognizing the need for further international efforts to support middle-income countries in this regard,

Acknowledging the negative effects of the current global financial and economic crisis on the development efforts of middle-income countries, which are vulnerable to external shocks,

Expressing concern that some middle-income countries are highly indebted and face increased challenges to their long-term debt sustainability,

Recognizing that climate change is one of the challenges to the sustainable development of middle-income countries,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held in Madrid, El Salvador and Windhoek, and the regional conference on the theme "Increasing the competitiveness of African middle-income countries", held in Cairo,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that regard underlines

the importance of international support, through various forms, that is well aligned with national priorities to address the development needs of middle-income countries;

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts made and successes achieved by many middle-income countries to eradicate poverty and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as their significant contribution to global and regional development and economic stability;

4. *Also acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

5. *Recognizes* the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries with a view to supporting their development efforts, including in the context of South-South and triangular cooperation;

6. *Invites* the United Nations development system, in particular the funds and programmes, and at the regional level, in accordance with their respective mandates, to improve support, as appropriate, to middle-income countries and to improve coordination and exchange of experiences with other international organizations, international financial institutions and regional organizations in this field as well as to align the programming of its activities more closely with national development strategies while targeting specific existing and emerging needs of middle-income countries;

7. *Invites* the international community, including international financial institutions, to further strengthen their support to the development efforts of middle-income countries through targeted technical assistance, provision of resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, as appropriate, while taking into account their national priorities and development policies;

8. *Acknowledges* that official development assistance is still essential for a number of middle-income countries and that it has a role to play in targeted areas, taking into account the needs and domestic resources of these countries;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to further undertake timely, appropriate and targeted measures to address the new and additional challenges that the current economic and financial crisis has imposed on middle income countries, on a case-by-case basis, based on the specific needs and national priorities of each of those countries;

10. *Underlines* the need for sustained efforts towards achieving debt sustainability in middle-income countries in order to avoid a debt crisis, and to that end notes and encourages further efforts by international financial institutions to enhance facilities for them;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in its provisional agenda, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", a sub-item entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries".

Development through partnership

In compliance with resolution 62/211 [YUN 2007, p. 837], the Secretary-General in September submit-

ted a report [A/64/337] on the implementation of the proposed modalities for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector. The report reviewed partnership types; the impact of the global economic downturn on the partnership agenda; the role of Governments; partnering at the system level; partnership developments at the level of agencies, funds and programmes; and actions to overcome operational challenges. According to the Secretary-General, efforts were needed to develop a more strategic and coherent approach to select and engage partners; integrate small companies and those from low-income countries; align global partnerships with country development agendas; build an enabling framework for partnerships; build staff capacity; enhance mechanisms to share best practices; and improve evaluation and impact assessment. Caretaking of the United Nations-business relationship was required to undertake a new process to continuously assess and improve the value proposition of partnerships, and to ensure maximum alignment with the priorities set by Member States. Continued and increased engagement by Governments would enable the Organization to better define its strategic goals with the private sector. The revised Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Community, now called the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Private Sector, and the new UN and Business website, were milestones in that collaboration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/426], adopted **resolution 64/223** without vote [agenda item 59].

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005 and 62/211 of 19 December 2007,

Reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations, and the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability,

Taking note of the continuing increase in the number of public-private partnerships worldwide,

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

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit encouragement to pursue responsible business practices,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, can make concrete contributions to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Underlining also the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reiterating that maintaining a comprehensive and diverse multi-stakeholder follow-up process to the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, including with civil society and the private sector, is critical, bearing in mind the core responsibility of all participants in the financing for development process to exercise ownership of it and to implement their respective commitments in an integrated fashion, and welcoming in this regard the active participation of civil society and private-sector entities,

Recognizing the need, where appropriate, for enhancing the capacity of Member States for their effective participation in partnerships, at all levels, in accordance with national priorities and national legislation, and encouraging international support for such efforts in developing countries,

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, including the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other diseases,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights,

gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Underlining the fact that, in the face of the current multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices, and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing, in this context, the potential that partnerships have in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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

Noting that the financial and economic crisis has demonstrated the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, which in turn has led to broader private sector engagement in support of United Nations goals,

Recognizing the importance of promoting a gender perspective in global partnerships,

Taking note of the Principles for Responsible Investment initiative, created to help investors to integrate environmental, social and corporate governance issues into investment decisions, and the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative, which seeks to embed corporate responsibility principles in business school curricula and research,

Welcoming the continuous efforts by the Commission on Sustainable Development, through its secretariat, to promote partnerships for sustainable development, inter alia, by the implementation and expansion of an interactive online database as a platform to provide access to information on partnerships and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices and by the regular holding of partnership fairs at the sessions of the Commission,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, such as the Global Compact, launched by the Secretary-General, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

Recognizing the vital role the Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector in accordance with its General Assembly mandate,

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

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

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

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

5. *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks, where appropriate;

6. *Recalls* that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalls that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

7. *Recognizes* the role that public-private partnerships can play in efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, and in improving health as well as contributing to the implementation of national strategies and action plans, inter alia, on social services delivery and in making progress towards more equitable health outcomes, bearing in mind the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies, and also recognizes the need for effective accountability and transparency in their implementation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing the challenges of development in the context of globalization;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach, which places greater emphasis on impact, transparency, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the following partnership principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect,

accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General to streamline and update the United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector, including through the approval of the revised Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

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

12. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to ensure that information on the nature and scope of partnership arrangements with the private sector is available within the United Nations system, as well as to Member States and the public at large, so as to enhance transparency;

13. *Encourages* the Global Compact to continue its activities as an innovative public-private partnership to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community, including through an increased number of local networks;

14. *Acknowledges* the positive contribution of the Global Compact and its ten principles in the promotion of responsible business practices;

15. *Takes note with interest* of the decision of the Secretary-General to hold an annual Private Sector Forum, beginning with the United Nations Private Sector Forum in September 2008, focusing on food sustainability and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and followed by the United Nations Leadership Forum on Climate Change in September 2009;

16. *Welcomes* the collaboration between the African Private Sector Forum and the Global Compact, and encourages the strengthening of this partnership in conjunction with the Commission of the African Union to support the development of the African private sector, the promotion of public-private partnership projects and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in line with the relevant executive decisions of the African Union;

17. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Compact Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Bogotá, aiming at providing support to the Global Compact Local Networks and at promoting social and environmental responsibility and public-private partnerships for development in the region;

18. *Acknowledges* the ongoing work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces and commissions, within their respective mandates, and in this regard encourages the provision of adequate training, as appropriate;

19. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies to share relevant lessons learned and positive experiences from partnerships, including with the business community, as a contribution to the development of more effective United Nations partnerships;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance partnership management through the promotion of adequate training at all levels concerned, institutional capacity in country offices, strategic focus and local ownership, the sharing of best practices and the improvement of partner selection processes, calls upon United Nations entities that engage the private sector as partners in their work to develop the policy frameworks and institutional capacities needed for engagement in a mutually beneficial way, and encourages the further development of United Nations private sector focal points for the purposes of learning and sharing best practices and information;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to promote, within existing resources, impact-assessment mechanisms of partnerships, taking into account best tools available, in order to enable effective management, ensure accountability and facilitate effective learning from both successes and failures;

22. *Welcomes* innovative approaches to using partnerships as a means to better implement goals and programmes, in particular in support of the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, encourages relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to further explore such possibilities, bearing in mind their different mandates, modes of operation and objectives, as well as the particular roles of the non-public partners involved;

23. *Recommends*, in this context, that partnerships should also foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including on gender grounds, in respect of employment and occupation;

24. *Reiterates its call upon:*

(a) All bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their websites and through other means;

(b) Partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations with which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Sustainable development

In 2009, several UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development, considered the implementation of outcomes of the 2002

World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], particularly the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 670]—and of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 792].

By **resolution 64/196** of 21 December (see p. 1038), the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth (2011) session a sub-item entitled “Harmony with Nature” under the item entitled “Sustainable development”.

Commission on Sustainable Development

As the main body responsible for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes, the Commission on Sustainable Development held its seventeenth (policy) session in New York on 16 May 2008 and from 4 to 15 May 2009 [E/2009/29], electing members of the Bureau at its second meeting on 4 May.

Intersessional events. A summary of the recommendations [E/CN.17/2009/13] emanating from the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water-use Efficiency and Rural Livelihood (Bangkok, 28–30 January) [E/CN.17/2009/16] emphasized that improving agricultural productivity, promoting integrated management of land and water resources, providing access to social capital, securing access to tenure and adapting to climate change were prerequisites for sustainable agriculture and food security. A high-level regional meeting (Windhoek, Namibia, 9–10 February) [E/CN.17/2009/15] organized by the Commission jointly with Namibia on the theme “African Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution” focused on operationalizing a green revolution in Africa, integrating African agriculture into global markets and managing Africa’s agricultural transition. In a letter dated 20 February [A/63/740], Namibia transmitted to the Secretary-General the resultant Windhoek High-level Ministerial Declaration, which called for an integrated response by African countries and the international community in support of sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches, and stressed the importance of food security and strengthening the agriculture sector in Africa.

Preparatory meeting. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (New York, 23–27 February)

for the seventeenth session of the Commission [E/CN.17/2009/2], held in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/234 [YUN 2007, p. 847], had before it the Secretary-General's reports on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation in: agriculture [E/CN.17/2009/3]; rural development [E/CN.17/2009/4]; land [E/CN.17/2009/5]; drought [E/CN.17/2009/6]; desertification [E/CN.17/2009/7]; Africa [E/CN.17/2009/8]; and interlinkages and cross-cutting issues [E/CN.17/2009/9].

Agriculture required renewed commitment and a new vision for global cooperation to implement policies that simultaneously aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, creating fair trade regimes, conserving natural resources and promoting investment in agricultural-related infrastructure, along with investments to bridge gaps in agricultural research and technology, and improved land and water management programmes and sustainable farming practices.

Important for rural development was enhancing the capacities of the rural population through access to education, skills development and the use of information and communication technologies for sustaining the impact of rural development programmes. Equally needed were the development of infrastructure, the integrated and holistic management of natural resources, and the promotion of alternative livelihoods options that did not depend on agriculture, yet provided sustainable income opportunities.

Central to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty was ensuring equitable access to land and other natural resources and land tenure security, including the recognition of customary tenure arrangements. There was a need to empower and provide access to land to marginalized people in order to eradicate poverty and ensure food security.

Improved drought-management planning, monitoring and implementation required support by capable national institutions and technical backstopping from international institutions. In addition to natural resources conservation and structural adaptation to climatic variability, policies that focused on exploiting alternative sources of water were crucial. Better access by developing countries to drought-tolerant crop varieties was essential.

National policies aimed at combating desertification needed to take into account the linkages among land degradation, desertification and poverty, in addition to addressing the root cause of land degradation itself. Local community policy ownership, regional cooperation and improved land tenure security were also important for attaining sustainable development goals.

As for Africa, priorities involved economic growth and diversification, including increasing investment in infrastructure; expanding agricultural productivity

and promoting sustainable agriculture; making long-term investments in social and human capital; and preserving the environment and the natural resource base, including coping with drought, desertification, and climate change.

Interlinkages among the six issues required building institutional capacity and including agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification in national sustainable development strategies and other development plans, especially in Africa. Key cross-cutting issues involved gender equality, sustainable patterns of consumption and production, integrating trade of developing countries into the world trade arena, sustainable management of natural resources in small island developing States, primary health care, and public investment in rural education.

The meeting also considered a note by the Secretariat on major groups priorities for action in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa [E/CN.17/2009/10]; and a letter dated 15 July 2008 from Zimbabwe to the Secretary-General transmitting the statement of African Ministers emanating from the African ministerial retreat held at Glen Cove, New York on 10 and 11 May 2008 [E/CN.17/2009/12]. The Commission took note of the Chairman's draft negotiating document for transmittal to the Commission at its seventeenth session. It also approved the request of the Nordic Council of Ministers, transmitted in a note by the Secretariat [E/CN.17/2009/L.1], to participate as an observer in the work of the Commission at its seventeenth session.

Communications. Contributions to the preparations for the seventeenth session of the Commission were received from Belarus [E/CN.17/2009/18] and Israel [E/CN.17/2009/17].

Policy session. At its seventeenth session—the policy session of the 2008–2009 implementation cycle—the Commission discussed, in line with the multi-year programme adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/61 [YUN 2003, p. 842], the thematic cluster for the cycle: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. The Commission focused its deliberations on those policy options and practical measures which could advance implementation in those areas, with a particular focus on how implementation could be advanced through a concerted global effort. Delegations noted that the world faced multiple crises that affected the topics under discussion, and that renewed commitment and a new vision were needed to make progress in those areas while responding to those crises.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption one draft decision on the dates of its meetings during its 2010/2011

cycle and another on the adoption of its report on its seventeenth session and the provisional agenda for its eighteenth session. It also took note of the draft programme of work for the biennium 2010–2011 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs [E/2009/29 (dec. 17/1)]. Further, the Commission brought to the attention of the Council a resolution on “Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa” [res. 17/1] and another on “Preparations for the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation” [res. 17/2], as well as the Chairperson’s summary “Shared vision” on the way to meet both the near- and long-term challenges facing agriculture and to realize a green revolution based on the three pillars of sustainable development.

High-level segment. The Commission’s high-level segment (13–15 May) addressed the six thematic areas under consideration. Pairs of parallel interactive round tables concerned “Responding to the food crisis through sustainable development”, “Realizing a sustainable green revolution in Africa”, and “Integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development”.

Speaking at the opening of the segment, the Secretary-General stressed that the idea of an integrated and comprehensive approach to development—the essence of sustainable development—remained as valid then as ever for addressing the climate, food and energy crises. He underlined a strong link between climate change mitigation and sustainable agriculture. Left unchecked, climate change would have a devastating effect on the poor. Farmers, especially in Africa, must have access to land, security of tenure, access to markets, technology and improved infrastructure, in particular to empower women to become full partners in development.

Activities in the partnerships fair (4–8 May) focused on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementing sustainable development goals and commitments through partnerships. The Learning Centre offered 12 courses on topics related to the Commission’s themes and cross-cutting issues.

The Economic and Social Council, on 29 July (**decision 2009/236**), took note of the Commission’s report on its seventeenth session [E/2009/29] and approved the provisional agenda for its eighteenth (2010) session. Also on 29 July (**decision 2009/235**), the Council decided on the dates of the Commission’s meetings during its 2010/2011 cycle.

Implementation of Agenda 21, Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/212 [YUN 2008, p. 912], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/64/275] on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that provided an update on actions taken by Governments, UN system organizations and major groups in advancing the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets, including through partnerships. The report gave an overview of outcomes in sustainable human development, conservation and management of resources for development, and environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and wastes; reviewed progress on the elements of Agenda 21 pertaining to governance and institutions, covering structures developed at international levels to oversee the implementation of Agenda 21, including the role and contributions of major groups; and summarized capacity-building actions in support of Agenda 21 with regard to international cooperation and means of implementation. The report, which recorded positive and negative trends in each of those areas, also featured views of Member States regarding the possibility of convening a high-level event on sustainable development.

The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly call on Governments, UN system organizations and major groups to deepen their commitments to sustainable development by redoubling their efforts to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; call on Governments to continue providing their support to the Commission on Sustainable Development and to organize intersessional activities, taking into account the thematic cluster of issues considered by the Commission in 2010–2011; call on Governments to continue providing their support to the Commission and to contribute to the Commission’s trust fund in support of enhanced participation of representatives of developing countries and representatives of major groups in the work of the Commission; invite the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) to continue monitoring, through its High-Level Committee on Programmes, the operational efficiency and effectiveness of inter-agency collaborative mechanisms, including UN-Energy, UN-Water, UN-Oceans and other collaborative arrangements, in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development; invite Governments to continue discussing the possibility of convening

a high-level event on sustainable development in order to reach a consensus; call on donor Governments and international financial institutions to support developing countries in the areas of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; and encourage Governments, in collaboration with UN system organizations and major groups, including business and industry, to consider enhancing the implementation and increasing the effectiveness of national sustainable development strategies, including through development cooperation frameworks, shared learning and exchange of experiences and best practices.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 24 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/236** without vote [agenda item 53 (a)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 A and B of 20 December 2002 and 23 June 2003, respectively, 62/189 of 19 December 2007 and 63/212 of 19 December 2008, and all other previous resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Reaffirming the commitment to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other interna-

tionally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Reaffirming the decisions taken at the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Recalling the adoption by the Commission of a multi-year programme of work designed to contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels,

Recalling also the decision taken by the Commission at its eleventh session that in review years it should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards supporting the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices, identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during policy years, as necessary,

Reiterating that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, and reaffirming the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Noting that challenges remain in achieving the goals of the three pillars of sustainable development, particularly in the context of the current global crises,

Taking note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Brazil to host a United Nations conference on sustainable development in 2012,

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

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

Recalling that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development and contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

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

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council should increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Welcoming the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa,

Recalling that the themes of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission, namely, transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns are interlinked and should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, related sectoral policies and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation, as identified at the eleventh session of the Commission,

Reiterating that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in paragraph 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and also reiterating that Governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all major groups should play an active role in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reiterates* that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
3. *Calls upon* Governments, all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and other intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as major groups, to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and encourages them to report on concrete progress in that regard;
4. *Calls for* the effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and for the fulfilment of the provisions relating to the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the high-level body responsible for sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as a forum for the consideration of issues related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and underlines the need to further support the work of the Commission, taking into account its existing mandate and the decisions taken at its eleventh session;

6. *Encourages* countries to present, on a voluntary basis, in particular at the Commission's review sessions, national reports focusing on concrete progress in implementation, including achievements, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of a consensus outcome and action-oriented policy sessions;

8. *Encourages* Governments to participate, at the appropriate level, in the eighteenth session of the Commission, with representatives, including ministers, from the relevant departments and organizations working in the areas of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and sustainable consumption and production, as well as finance;

9. *Recalls* the decision of the Commission at its eleventh session that activities during Commission meetings should provide for the balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

10. *Invites* donor countries to consider supporting the participation of representatives from the developing countries in the eighteenth session of the Commission, inter alia, through contributions to the Commission's trust fund;

11. *Reaffirms* the objective of strengthening the implementation of Agenda 21, including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes, in particular for developing countries;

12. *Also reaffirms* the objective of enhancing the participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation, in the implementation of Agenda 21;

13. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to coordinate the participation of the relevant major groups in the thematic discussions at the eighteenth session of the Commission and the reporting on the fulfilment of corporate responsibility and accountability with respect to the thematic cluster of issues, in accordance with the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to promote corporate social responsibility and accountability as envisaged by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

15. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to make arrangements to facilitate the balanced representation of major groups from developed and developing countries in the sessions of the Commission, and in this regard invites donor countries to consider supporting the participation of major groups from developing countries, inter alia, through contributions to the Commission's trust fund;

16. *Encourages* contributions by the regional implementation meetings and other regional events to the Commission at its eighteenth session;

17. *Reiterates its invitation* to the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions

and specialized agencies, the international and regional financial and trade institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant bodies, to actively participate, within their mandates, in the work of the Commission at its eighteenth session;

18. *Encourages* Governments and organizations at all levels, as well as major groups, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities to support the work of the Commission and to promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including through voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the Commission at its eighteenth session, on the basis of appropriate inputs from all levels, to submit a thematic report on each of the five issues contained in the thematic cluster to be considered at the session, namely, transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking into account their interlinkages as well as cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation identified by the Commission at its eleventh session, and takes into account the relevant provisions of paragraphs 10, 14 and 15 of draft resolution I adopted by the Commission at its eleventh session;

20. *Decides* to organize, in 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives, in this regard accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to host the Conference, and decides that:

(a) The objective of the Conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges. The focus of the Conference will include the following themes to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development;

(b) The Conference will result in a focused political document;

(c) The Conference and its preparatory process should take into account the decision taken at the eleventh session of the Commission to carry out, at the conclusion of the multi-year programme of work, an overall appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(d) The Conference, including its preparatory process, should ensure the balanced integration of economic development, social development and environmental protection, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

(e) It is important that there be efficient and effective preparations at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system so as to ensure high-quality inputs without placing undue strain on Member States;

(f) It must be ensured that the Conference and related preparations do not adversely affect other ongoing activities;

21. *Encourages* the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and further elaborated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and decisions taken at the eleventh session of the Commission, at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission as well as its established practices related to the participation and engagement of major groups;

22. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in the area of sustainable development, to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process;

23. *Decides* that a preparatory committee will be established within the framework of the Commission to carry out the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which will provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as other participants in the Commission, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995;

24. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the ten-member Bureau of the Preparatory Committee no later than 28 February 2010 so that they can be involved in its preparations in advance of the first session of the Preparatory Committee;

25. *Decides* that:

(a) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2010 for three days, immediately after the conclusion of the eighteenth session and the first meeting of the nineteenth session of the Commission to discuss the substantive themes of the Conference, as decided in accordance with the present resolution, and pending procedural matters, as well as to elect the Bureau;

(b) The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2011 for two days immediately after the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission to discuss further the substantive themes of the Conference;

(c) The third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Brazil in 2012 for three days to discuss the outcome of the Conference, immediately preceding the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which will also be held for three days. In this regard, the Commission will postpone its multi-year programme of work for one year;

(d) Regional implementation meetings will become regional preparatory meetings for the Conference in 2011;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress to date and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits in the area of sustainable development, as well as an analysis of the themes identified above, to the Preparatory Committee at its first meeting;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, ensuring inter-agency participation and coherence as well as the efficient use of resources;

28. *Encourages* international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the Commission's trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the progress of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

On 24 December (**decision 64/549**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda items on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference, and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-fourth (2010) session.

Communications. In a letter dated 4 May [A/63/843], Turkmenistan transmitted the statement of the Chairmanship of the High-level Ashgabat Conference on "Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation" (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 23–24 April). In respective letters dated 17 February [A/63/723] and 7 May [A/63/847], Uzbekistan and Belarus submitted information on their respective declarations of 2009 as the Year of Development and Improvement of the Countryside in Uzbekistan and as the Year of Our Native Land in Belarus.

Implementation of Ministerial Declaration on internationally agreed sustainable development goals

Coordination segment of Economic and Social Council. At its 2009 coordination segment (10, 13–14 and 31 July) [A/64/3/Rev.1], the Economic and Social Council considered the role of the UN system in implementing the Ministerial Declaration on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development, adopted at its 2008 high-level segment [YUN 2008, p. 903]. The Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General [E/2009/56] that reviewed UN sys-

tem efforts to further the sustainable development agenda against the backdrop of current challenges. The report assessed progress and challenges in priority areas identified in the 2008 Ministerial Declaration; identified lessons learned from country-level experience to strengthen support for national sustainable development strategies; and assessed the impact of current challenges on those efforts. The report made recommendations in the areas of energy, climate change, water, agricultural and rural development, sustainable urbanization, social equality, and institutions for sustainable development, and concluded that the UN system had made important strides in strengthening its role in support of sustainable development, as evidenced in several initiatives; it had addressed specific challenges, including climate change, water resource management, energy supply and agricultural and rural development, and those efforts could be scaled up to involve all relevant partners.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report on 31 July (**decision 2009/257**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/28** [draft: E/2009/L.44] without vote [agenda item 4].

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme "Implementing internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development"

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2008,

Recalling further its resolutions 2008/28 and 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, adopted at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2008, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that effective sustainable development strategies need to pursue an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and other relevant outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits,

Expressing concern regarding the number of people living in poverty and the fact that the current economic and food insecurity crises and unpredictable energy prices may pose significant challenges for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this context highlighting

the importance of improved coordination of United Nations system activities in support of achieving sustainable development,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council should further increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to act as the high-level body on sustainable development within the United Nations system and to serve as a forum for the consideration of issues related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

1. *Reiterates* that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, and reaffirms the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development;

2. *Requests* all member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to further mainstream, at all levels, the sustainable development agenda, including recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to align and coordinate, as well as promote coherence among, their policies, programmes, initiatives and activities, as appropriate;

3. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue to lend and further strengthen their support to developing countries in:

(a) Building their capacity to formulate effective sustainable development strategies;

(b) Mobilizing adequate and sustained levels of financial resources for meeting the priority objectives of sustainable development;

(c) Enhancing access to external resources as well as to key technologies for sustainable development;

4. *Notes* the progress made by UN-Energy in enhancing United Nations system cooperation and coordination with respect to following up the energy agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and calls upon UN-Energy to further promote system-wide policy coherence in relation to, inter alia, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system to further strengthen a coordinated and coherent system-wide approach to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly in developing countries;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support and participate in, as appropriate, the activities being envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, including those organized under the auspices of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Invites* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to support, in a coordinated manner, initiatives directed towards implementing green initiatives in developing countries, encompassing, inter alia, the preparation of strategies for achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development, including through capacity-

building and the transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, while taking note of the coordination work of UN-Energy in this regard;

8. *Also invites* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to integrate their work on water issues at the regional and local levels into United Nations efforts at the country level to support national sustainable development strategies and to promote the implementation of the priorities agreed within the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development, while taking note, inter alia, of the coordination work of UN-Water in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through the Marrakech Process, with developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, while taking into account the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

10. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to mainstream, in a coordinated manner, sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading in their efforts to assist developing countries, in accordance with national strategies and programmes, in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and notes the efforts of the United Nations Development Group in facilitating the inclusion of these concerns in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidelines;

11. *Encourages* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue integrating social justice and equity concerns into their programmes and activities to support national sustainable development strategies and to promote a greater understanding of the social impact of current crises;

12. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as multi-stakeholder approaches involving local authorities, civil society and the private sector, in their efforts to ensure the achievement of sustainable development.

Agricultural technology for development

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/190 [YUN 2007, p. 844], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/64/258] on agricultural technology for development. The report assessed the contribution of agricultural technologies to boosting productivity and promoting growth and food security, especially in low-productivity agricultural systems, and ensuring resilience and long-run stability of production. The report reviewed areas such as, agricultural productivity and sustainability challenges; supporting technology development with regard

to factors affecting the productivity, resilience and sustainability of agricultural systems; and boosting agriculture sustainability through programmes for technology development and adaptation, as well as support institutions and infrastructure.

The Secretary-General recommended incorporating agricultural technology and broader development into national sustainable development strategies; and supporting a new, sustainable green revolution that would revitalize agricultural sectors in developing countries by enhancing agricultural production, productivity and sustainability by using science-based approaches and local indigenous knowledge in a manner that protected and conserved natural resources, limited the use of scarce inputs and pollutants, and enhanced the quality of natural resources. He also recommended implementing a social strategy for sustainable rural development, including enhanced support for small farmers; ensuring land tenure protection as well as secure access to water, especially for poor and vulnerable groups; promoting the empowerment of rural women; and scaling up of best practices. International cooperation would be essential to implement those national actions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/197** by recorded vote (146-1-32) [agenda item 53 (a)].

Agricultural technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/190 of 19 December 2007 on agricultural technology for development,

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

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling its resolution 63/235 of 22 December 2008 on agriculture development and food security,

Recognizing the work done by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, highlighting the thematic focus on agriculture-related issues, and applauding its call to increase investment in training research and development, in particular on sustainable practices and technologies, including agricultural technologies, and to accelerate the transfer and diffusion of such technologies, information, methods and practices in order to reach all users, including farmers, women, youth and indigenous people as well as those in remote rural areas,

Acknowledging the work performed by the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by the Secretary-General in 2008, and the Comprehensive

Framework for Action that it produced, specifically its call for increased investments in the development of agricultural technology as well as the transfer and use of existing technologies, as appropriate, especially for smallholder farmers as a means to achieve global food security and poverty reduction,

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

Welcoming the commitment by the Group of Eight and more than twenty-five countries and organizations in the Joint Statement on Global Food Security, adopted in L'Aquila, Italy, on 10 July 2009, towards the goal of mobilizing 20 billion United States dollars over three years focused on sustainable agriculture development,

Reaffirming its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the beneficial impact that the adoption of agricultural technologies can have for the achievement of those goals, including for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability,

Concerned by the slow progress so far in achieving the above-mentioned goals, in particular by the fact that Africa remains the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015, and recognizing the need to intensify the efforts of the international community in its attempt to reach the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the importance and the potential of smallholder farmers in increasing agricultural production, achieving economic growth and reducing poverty,

Stressing the critical role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution to enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining further the fact that meaningful progress in agricultural development necessitates a focus on supporting and empowering women,

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society in furthering progress in developing countries, in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural technology and the training of smallholder farmers, in raising awareness and in the provision and dissemination of information,

Aware that the world financial and economic crisis, in addition to other global challenges, has a negative impact on food security and development, specifically in the agricultural sector, thereby negatively impacting the most vulnerable groups and potentially setting back progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Considering the increasing need to innovate in agriculture and food production in order to respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, depletion and scarcity of natural resources, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that sustainable agricultural technologies can greatly contribute to the adaptation of agriculture to, and help to mitigate the negative impact of, climate change, land degradation and desertification,

Underlining the importance of collaboration, sharing of information and dissemination of agricultural technology research results as well as wide consultation when defining

the global, regional and national research agendas, and in this regard noting the valuable role of, inter alia, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and its affiliated or associated organizations,

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

2. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to make greater efforts to develop and disseminate appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies, particularly in and with developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, and to support national efforts to foster utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and enable poor rural women, men and youth to increase sustainable agricultural productivity and enhance food security;

3. *Calls attention* to the crucial role of women in the agricultural sector, and therefore calls upon Member States to promote and support better access of women to agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment and decision-making forums;

4. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties, as well as supporting the establishment of agricultural systems and sustainable management practices, in order to make agriculture more resilient and, in particular, to make crops more tolerant to environmental stress, including drought and climate change, in a manner consistent with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

5. *Also underlines* the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and ensure agricultural productivity, and calls for further efforts to strengthen the provision and proper maintenance of irrigation facilities as well as to introduce water-saving technology, considering the possible impact of climate change on water resources;

6. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services, including training, capacity-building, infrastructure and extension services to farmers, in particular smallholder farmers, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to make appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies available and affordable to smallholder farmers;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, notes the positive impact that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can have in this regard, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States on ways to sustainably expand areas for agriculture and increase opportunities for agricultural development through technologies that allow soil recovery, improve soil fertility and increase agricultural production in pressing environmental circumstances;

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

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 64/197:

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

Against: Somalia.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

Communication. By a 7 August letter [A/64/301], Israel submitted a report on its implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/190 [YUN 2007, p. 844].

Eradication of poverty

Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/230 [YUN 2008, p. 917], the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on 22 October briefed the Second Committee [A/C.2/64/SR.18] on progress made in implementing the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), proclaimed by the Assembly in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 847]. The CEB High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) had reviewed and endorsed the framework of a system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, with a focus on employment and decent work, prepared by a cluster group of HLCP members, co-led by DESA and the International Labour Organization. The plan covered four types of joint activity: raising awareness about employment and decent work as an effective development strategy for poverty eradication; strengthening capacity-building; sharing good practices in promoting employment and decent work nationally and internationally; and supporting the integration of decent work towards poverty eradication into national and international policies and programmes. The plan focused on youth employment, the working poor, social protection, support for sustainable enterprises, gender equality, standards and rights at work, and social dialogue. The UN system would work closely with social partners, civil society organizations and other actors with a view to supporting Governments in implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, related to poverty eradication. The Secretary-General had decided to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as UN focal point for the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/424/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/216** without vote [agenda item 57 (a)].

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007 and 63/230 of 19 December 2008,

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

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017),

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development, and also Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/5 of 24 July 2009 entitled "Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact",

Recalling its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

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

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Underlining the fact that, in the face of the current multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the urgent need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) and six years from the 2015 target date of the Millennium Development Goals, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

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

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

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in least developed countries, and underlining the fact that the importance of accelerating sustainable

broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

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

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

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

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

3. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, inter-governmental and inter-agency levels;

4. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

5. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

7. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate predictable financial resources on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

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

10. *Welcomes* the increased efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its impact on development, including through the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, which make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, and through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and management of results and through the further alignment of assistance with countries' strategies, the building of institutional capacities, the reduction of transaction costs, the elimination of bureaucratic procedures, the achievement of progress on unttying aid, the enhancement of the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and the strengthening of the focus on development results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

11. *Recognizes* that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

13. *Takes note* of the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and

Social Affairs as the coordinator for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017);

14. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

15. *Takes note* of the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than twenty-one agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide further details of this plan of action to the Member States;

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

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report that details the current response of the United Nations system related to the theme of the Second Decade.

Rural development

United Nations Alliance

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/36 [YUN 2007, p. 849], the Secretary-General in May submitted a report [E/2009/72] on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development [YUN 2004, p. 841]. The report provided updated information on activities undertaken by Governments, UN bodies and civil society organizations in the first two pilot countries (Dominican Republic and Madagascar) and gave examples of similar initiatives in support of rural development in the two new pilot countries (Angola and Ethiopia). In addition to presenting UN Headquarters activities in support of the four pilot countries, the report also examined the impact of the financial and economic crisis on efforts to achieve rural development in those countries. The report recommended that in order to strengthen public-private partnerships in support of rural development in the four pilot countries, there had to be a major scaling up of engagement by UN system organizations with civil society and private sector partners, in close collaboration with the Governments of those countries. As the global crisis was threatening both recent gains made towards achieving the MDGs and the achievement of their targets by 2015, it was important for the international community to pro-

vide sufficient additional resources for rural and agricultural development programmes and to address the challenge of food insecurity. The integral role that rural women played should be highlighted during the consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women of the priority theme of its fifty-fourth (2010) session, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report on 31 July (**decision 2009/264**).

Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/142 [YUN 2008, p. 925], which took note of the final report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor [ibid.], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/64/133] on the legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty. The report set forth the emerging approach to the matter in terms of the international human rights framework; its operational scope and focus, including access to justice as well as property, labour and entrepreneurship rights; national and regional experiences and the role of various UN system organizations in fostering legal empowerment of the poor; and relevant challenges and lessons learned in consideration of the matter as both a development strategy and a development objective.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/424], adopted **resolution 64/215** without vote [agenda item 57].

Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also its resolution 63/142 of 11 December 2008,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Reaffirming the importance of the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed upon at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Remaining committed to the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Concerned by the global nature of poverty and inequality, reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing the economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Recognizing that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger,

Recognizing also, in this regard, that access to justice and the realization of rights related, inter alia, to property, labour and business are mutually reinforcing and essential determinants of the effective eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, entitled "Making the Law Work for Everyone", as a useful reference in the area of poverty eradication,

Reaffirming that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Stressing that gender equality and the empowerment of women are essential to achieving equitable and effective development and to fostering a vibrant economy, and reaffirming its commitment to eliminating gender-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the labour and financial markets, as well as, inter alia, in respect of the ownership of assets and property rights, to promoting women's rights, including their economic empowerment, and effectively mainstreaming gender in law reforms, business support services and economic programmes, and to giving women full and equal access to economic resources,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Deeply concerned by the significant challenges that the financial and economic crisis poses for the eradication of poverty, and in this regard reiterating that national efforts should be complemented by an enabling international environment, to ensure the achievement of a more inclusive, equitable, balanced, development-oriented and sustainable economic development that would help to overcome poverty and inequality,

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

2. *Also takes note* of the broad diversity of national experiences in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, recognizes the initiatives undertaken and progress made by some countries in advancing legal empowerment of

the poor as an integral part of their national strategies and objectives, and stresses the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices;

3. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the ongoing work of the United Nations funds and programmes as well as of the specialized agencies;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, inter-governmental and inter-agency levels;

5. *Also emphasizes* the importance of access to justice for all, and in this regard encourages the strengthening and improvement of the administration of justice and identity and birth registration systems, as well as awareness-raising concerning existing legal rights;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the rule of law and property rights, and the pursuit of appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, inter alia, encourage business formation, including entrepreneurship, and contribute to poverty eradication;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at national levels to promote employment and decent work for all and to protect labour rights, including through respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work proclaimed by the International Labour Organization;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at national levels to promote a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector as a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, and encourages the promotion of an enabling environment that facilitates entrepreneurship and doing business by all, including women, the poor and the vulnerable;

9. *Encourages* countries to continue their efforts in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, including access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business, addressing both formal and informal settings by taking into account those dimensions in their national policies and strategies, while bearing in mind the importance of national circumstances, ownership and leadership;

10. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, and in this regard calls for action at all levels to give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty, and calls upon countries in a position to do so to support the national efforts of developing countries in promoting legal empowerment of the poor through the provision of adequate, predictable financial resources or technical assistance;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit" and to continue the consideration of legal empowerment of the poor, taking into account national experiences and the views of Member States.

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009, published by DESA [Sales No. E.09.I.12] and based on data available as of June, summarized regional progress on official MDG indicators. Although data were not available to reveal the full impact of the recent economic downturn, they pointed to areas where progress was threatened or had been reversed by sluggish—or even negative—economic growth, diminished resources, fewer trade opportunities for developing countries, and possible reductions in aid flows from donor nations. Living in extreme poverty were an estimated 55 million to 90 million more people than anticipated before the crisis. The encouraging trend in the eradication of hunger since the early 1990s was reversed in 2008, largely due to higher food prices. The prevalence of hunger in the developing regions was on the rise, from 16 per cent in 2006 to 17 per cent in 2008.

The report portrayed advances that many countries and regions had made before the economic landscape changed in 2008, especially in advancing education and reducing child mortality. Those were most evident where targeted interventions had an immediate effect, and where increased funding translated into expanded delivery of services and tools directly to those in need, for example, in the fight against malaria, the dramatic reduction in measles deaths, and the coverage of antiretroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS. Progress had been more modest when it required structural changes and strong political commitment to guarantee sufficient and sustained funding. That was likely the reason behind the poor performance of most countries in reducing maternal mortality and increasing access of the rural poor to improved sanitation. Achieving the MDGs would require that the development agenda be fully integrated into efforts to jumpstart and rebuild the global economy.

2010 General Assembly high-level plenary meeting on MDGs

In response to General Assembly **resolution 63/302** (see p. 1375), the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/64/263] to serve as a basis for further consultations on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly with the participation of heads of State and Government.

By **resolution 64/184** of 21 December (see p. 1375), the General Assembly decided that the high-level plenary meeting, to be held from 20 to 22 September 2010, would focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the MDGs by 2015, taking into account the progress made with regard to the internationally agreed development goals.

Science and technology for development

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its twelfth session (Geneva, 25–29 May) [E/2009/31], the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) considered regional and international progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (wsis) [YUN 2003, p. 857 & YUN 2005, p. 933] at the regional and international levels. It also addressed its priority themes “Development-oriented policies for a socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment” and “Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research”. The Commission had before it respective reports of the Secretary-General on the priority themes [E/CN.16/2009/2 & E/CN.16/2009/3] and a summary report by the UNCTAD secretariat on the Commission’s intersessional panel meeting (Santiago, Chile, 12–14 November 2008) [E/CN.16/2009/CRP.1]. It also had before it a report [E/CN.16/2009/CRP.2] on the Conference on Global Food Security: The Role of Science and Technology (Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, 17–18 February), attended by representatives of CSTD member States, government agencies, private companies, researchers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and centred on action plans to be implemented in the short to medium term; regional development; and the way forward in addressing the food crisis through science and technology.

The Secretary-General stated [E/CN.16/2009/2] that international organizations, corporations and public-private partnerships were critical players in the promotion of access to information and communication technologies (ICT) and improved facilities; and that indigenous science, technology and innovation capabilities were essential for the achievement of both short- and long-term development goals. He recommended that efforts be stepped up to share policy-related experiences through North-South and South-South cooperation, and through existing and new regional and international agreements [E/CN.16/2009/3].

The Commission recommended two draft resolutions and one draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

On 24 July (**decision 2009/219**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission’s report on its twelfth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirteenth (2010) session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 36], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2009/31], adopted **resolution 2009/8** without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2008/219 of 18 July 2008, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session on the science, technology and innovation priority themes addressed during the current biennium,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which recognizes 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, especially the commitment to support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means,

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

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two priority themes, "Development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment" and "Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research",

Recognizing the critical role of innovation in maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy,

Noting the outcomes of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission, held in Santiago from 12 to 14 November 2008, and the summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Taking note of the reports submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission at its twelfth session,

Welcoming the revision of the terms of reference of the United Nations Group on the Information Society to expand its mandate to include science and technology pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 and the decision adopted by the High-level Committee on Programmes at its seventeenth session, held in Geneva on 26 and 27 February 2009,

Extending its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his role in helping to ensure that the aforementioned reports were completed in a timely manner,

Noting that, while there is broad consensus that technological innovation is a driver and critical source of sustainable economic growth in the new millennium, many developing countries have yet to benefit from the promises of science, technology and innovation,

Stressing the role of education for all as a precondition for the development of science, technology and innovation,

Reaffirming that the training and retention of scientific, technological and engineering talent, mechanisms for the

funding of research, the commercialization of scientific knowledge, the building of strategic partnerships for the transfer of technology, innovative financing strategies and an innovation-friendly culture can all play critical roles in harnessing scientific and technological knowledge for development,

Recognizing the role that science, technology and engineering can play in developing solutions for the problems facing the world today, including climate change and the food and energy crises, and that most of the knowledge that countries need in order to address their most urgent social and economic problems already exists,

Extending its appreciation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the particular attention given to the needs of African countries in the areas of science and technology in order to stimulate economic growth and to reduce poverty, by undertaking science, technology and innovation policy reviews for Angola, Ghana, Lesotho and Mauritania and by organizing training sessions,

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General to initiate a process aimed at developing and making available a guide to help United Nations personnel to prepare United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and common country assessments and to help relevant stakeholders to prepare poverty reduction strategy papers, identifying opportunities that science, technology and innovation can provide at the country level towards the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Decides* to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to undertake the following actions:

- (i) Mainstream science and technology promotion and investment into their national development plans;
- (ii) Formulate and implement policies and programmes to:
 - a. Strengthen science and mathematics education and mentorship for students in primary and secondary schools;
 - b. Expand opportunities for science, technology and engineering education and research for their population, especially women and particularly in the emerging technologies such as biotechnology and nanotechnology, as appropriate;
 - c. Provide, where possible, suitable working conditions for their scientific, technological and engineering talent, especially young graduates and women, in order to prevent brain drain;
 - d. Develop mechanisms, including innovative solutions for expanding rural power supply and the provision of broadband access to poor communities in rural areas not covered by market-driven investment, to ensure access to science, technology and engineering for women, youth, the rural poor and other marginalized groups in all countries;

- e. Promote research and development in scientific, technological and engineering-related fields, to support, inter alia, grass-roots food production and entrepreneurial activities by the rural population;
 - f. Strengthen, as appropriate, linkages between the private sector, academia and financial institutions and incentives for the commercialization of research and development, by promoting entrepreneurship, increased venture capital funding, the establishment of technology parks and incubators, and greater international collaboration;
 - g. Increase the number of full-time researchers in science, technology and engineering;
- (iii) Create innovative funding strategies and compensation and reward structures in academic and research institutions to provide incentives for scientific and technological talent to remain within their countries and promote research directed at addressing national and regional development challenges;
 - (iv) Establish international needs-based partnerships, where countries and their private sectors can collaborate on research and development, including the commercialization of research results, to address similar development challenges, especially those related to health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;
 - (v) Develop a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, support the development of technological capabilities in small and medium-sized enterprises and promote incubators for promising technologies;
 - (vi) Launch campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of innovation for wealth creation and national welfare through the mass media and high-profile awards;
 - (vii) Reaffirm the essential role that official development assistance plays as a complement to other sources of financing for development and fulfil the internationally agreed commitments regarding official development assistance in order to contribute to the efforts of developing countries in building their indigenous capabilities in science and technology;
 - (viii) Make considered decisions to balance short- and long-term science, technology and innovation goals and policies, evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of procuring or licensing technologies, as compared with producing them indigenously;
 - (ix) Focus national efforts, when facing a generally low level of science, technology and innovation capacity, on building and strengthening indigenous scientific, technical, vocational and engineering capacities to select and use existing knowledge resources, in order to create jobs, to generate wealth and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
- (b) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is encouraged to:
 - (i) Play the role of torch-bearer for innovation and innovation-oriented planning and support efforts by national Governments to integrate science, technology and innovation into national development strategies by providing a forum for developing countries, the international community, the science, technology and innovation policy research community and other interested parties to:
 - a. Share and analyse available empirical evidence on technological learning and science, technology and innovation policy impacts;
 - b. Identify critical gaps in "innovation system" understanding that the policy research community might usefully address;
 - c. Share best practices and information on new technologies, financing mechanisms and regulatory measures related to the provision of broadband connectivity in their respective communities, as well as on a range of access strategies and technologies aimed at supplementing broadband Internet access and supporting all levels of socio-economic activity in a country, with a focus on reaching women and the population in rural areas;
 - (ii) Explore the possibility of organizing an Internet-based science, technology and innovation collaborative network, in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and other appropriate stakeholders, which could promote regional and global cooperation by collecting information related to science, technology and engineering capacity-building in education, research and innovation, technology development and transfer, prospects for commercialization of knowledge-based products, opportunities for collaboration and joint ventures and related issues and which could also serve as a repository of regional and subregional initiatives that could encourage further use of the Internet by all interested stakeholders;
 - (c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged to:
 - (i) Reaffirm its mandate in respect of science and technology for development and place greater emphasis on the role of innovation within its mandate;
 - (ii) Improve the collaboration on science and technology for development existing within the United Nations system, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the regional commissions and with other appropriate stakeholders, including the World Bank;
 - (iii) Continue providing its expertise and analytical skills for science, technology and innovation policy reviews and organizing training sessions, particularly for African countries, aimed at provid-

ing information-based policy recommendations and proposed action plans to assist developing countries with their specific needs and circumstances;

- (iv) Develop a clearing house for common development challenges that can be addressed through scientific, technological and innovation-related issues, including financing and regulation, and convene meetings of representatives of developing countries with similar concerns to explore concrete ways of engaging and partnering in solutions;
- (v) Collaborate with less developed countries to create conditions that make them attractive to foreign direct investment in science and technology, including information and communications technologies;
- (vi) Develop a training programme for sharing best practices on science, technology and innovation capacity-building in developing countries, using extrabudgetary resources;
- (vii) Continue to assist African countries in their efforts to build science, technology and innovation capacities through training and workshops, particularly in the areas of biotechnology and cybersecurity, and invite donors to support the network of centres of excellence, currently sponsored by the Government of Italy, and to expand it to include other regions.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 62/201 [YUN 2007, p. 851], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/64/168] on science and technology for development, in particular on the work carried out by CSTD in agriculture, rural development, ICT and environmental management. It also provided information on activities carried out by UNCTAD and other organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in their national development plans and strategies.

In November 2008, the Government of Tunisia, in collaboration with UNCTAD and the International Telecommunication Union, and in partnership with the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development and the African Development Bank, organized the third Information and Communications Technology for All Forum, "Tunis+3: broadband, industry of content for development" (Hammamet, Tunisia, 27–28 November). The Forum addressed strategies and options to expand access among low-income countries to low-cost fixed or wireless broadband technology. CSTD continued to collaborate with UNCTAD on the Network of Centres of Excellence project, which organized training courses and workshops for scientists and engineers from developing countries at scientific and technological institutions in developing countries selected for their competence and state-of-the-art facilities. The Network organized three training sessions in 2008, one in

Tunisia and two in Egypt, with the first francophone session of the Network having been held in Tunisia, in collaboration with the National Agency for Computer Security. UNCTAD science, technology and innovation policy reviews were completed for 5 countries.

In 2009, the first session of the UNCTAD multi-year expert meeting on enterprise development policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation (Geneva, 20–22 January) discussed how innovation and entrepreneurship could help developing countries overcome global challenges, such as climate change, energy and food security. Experts shared ideas on how to fight poverty through improving productivity and competitiveness of enterprises in developing countries. UNCTAD and the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation organized a conference on the theme "Global food security: the role of science and technology" (Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 17–18 February) that examined whether the food crisis could be resolved by way of science and technology policies, and called for continued investment and research efforts in developing and sharing new technologies and technological solutions in the agriculture sector.

Intersessional panel meeting. The CSTD intersessional panel meeting (Geneva, 9–11 November) [E/CN.16/2010/CRP.1] addressed improvements and innovations in financial mechanisms for ICT; new and emerging technologies; and the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/422/Add.3], adopted **resolution 64/212** without vote [agenda item 55 (c)].

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005 and 62/201 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 61/207 of 20 December 2006 and its reference to science and technology,

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

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

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

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

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

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development, and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries in accessing the potential benefits of information and communications technologies,

Encouraging continued efforts towards the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,

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

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

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

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

1. *Reaffirms its commitment:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital

for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information and communication technologies

During 2009, the United Nations continued to consider how the benefits of new technologies, especially ICT, could be made available to all, in keeping with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799], the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49] and the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action [YUN 2003, p. 857] adopted at the first phase of WSIS [ibid.], and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda adopted at its second phase [YUN 2005, p. 933].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/417], adopted **resolution 64/186** without vote [agenda item 50].

Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Stressing the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are available to all,

Noting that Governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations, and other international organizations, have an important role in bridging the digital divide for the benefit of all and in building an inclusive and people-centred information society,

Recognizing that well-developed information and communication network infrastructures, such as information superhighways, act as one of the main technological enablers of the digital opportunities, and noting, in this regard, the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway convened by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, held in Baku on 11 November 2008,

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

2. *Also recognizes* the immense potential that building connectivity can have in contributing to social progress, including in advancing the status of women and promoting social integration and tolerance;

3. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened and continued cooperation among all stakeholders to build and run information infrastructures to bridge the digital divide in the region, and encourages interested Member States to participate in the development of regional connectivity solutions;

4. *Recognizes* the need to build connectivity in the region to help to bridge the digital divide, and in this regard welcomes the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway initiative and the readiness of the Republic of Azerbaijan to coordinate regional efforts aimed at realizing this initiative.

Also on 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/417], adopted **resolution 64/187** without vote [agenda item 50].

Information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006 and 62/182 of 19 December 2007, Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, its resolution 63/202 of 19 December 2008 and other relevant resolutions,

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

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

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels,

Stressing the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are available to all,

Recognizing the importance of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum, as a multi-stakeholder dia-

logue to discuss various matters, including public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, and reiterating that all Governments, on an equal footing, should carry out their roles and responsibilities for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet, but not with regard to the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues,

Taking note of the discussions at the fourth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 15 to 18 November 2009, on the future of the Forum, which generally welcomed the renewal of its mandate and recognized the need for further discussion on the improvement of its working methods,

Recalling the first, second, third and fourth meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens from 30 October to 2 November 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 15 November 2007, in Hyderabad, India, from 3 to 6 December 2008, and in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 15 to 18 November 2009, respectively, and welcoming the convening of the fifth meeting of the Forum, to be held in Vilnius from 14 to 17 September 2010,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communication technologies infrastructure, the Connect Africa summits held in Kigali on 29 and 30 October 2007 and in Cairo from 12 to 15 May 2008 and the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk on 26 and 27 November 2009, which are regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment, of the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Noting the contribution of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Noting also the twelfth session of the Commission, held in Geneva from 25 to 29 May 2009, and the intersessional meeting of the Commission held in Geneva from 9 to 11 November 2009,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Stressing that, for the majority of the poor, the developmental promise of science and technology, including information and communication technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communication technologies, to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to

enhancing access to information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

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

2. *Stresses* the important role of Governments in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communication technologies, on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

3. *Recognizes* that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communication technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and South-South cooperation;

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

5. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communication technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socio-economic activity;

6. *Acknowledges* that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to the new technologies, especially information and communication technologies for development;

7. *Recalls* the improvements and innovations in financing mechanisms, including the creation of a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, and in this regard invites voluntary contributions to its financing;

8. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation, particularly through triangular cooperation, can be a useful tool to promote the development of information and communication technologies;

9. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms, in a joint effort and dialogue with developing and least

developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communication technologies sector;

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

11. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the need for resources in this regard;

12. *Notes* the organization of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2009 by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to facilitate interaction among actors implementing the Summit's action lines, and invites the organizers to fully engage Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector in the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2010, to be held from 10 to 14 May 2010 in Geneva;

13. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in that regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its effort to promote the use of information and communication technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

14. *Also recognizes* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as an inter-agency mechanism of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination designed to coordinate United Nations implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes;

15. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet;

16. *Invites* Member States to support the meaningful participation of stakeholders from developing countries in the preparatory meetings of the Internet Governance Forum and in the Forum itself in 2010;

17. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to consider strengthening the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum in order to support its activities and operations, in accordance with its mandate, including by providing additional funds, where possible, to the Trust Fund in support of the secretariat;

18. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, during its thirteenth session, which will be held at the halfway point to the 2015 overall review, to organize a substantive discussion on the progress made over five years in the implementation of the Summit outcomes, including consideration of the modalities of im-

plementation and follow-up to the Summit, and invites all facilitators and stakeholders to take this into account with regard to their contribution to that session;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution.

Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

The Secretary-General transmitted the report [A/65/276] of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/130 [YUN 1995, p. 1438], including the recommendations of the eleventh United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development (Washington, D.C., 11–13 March 2009).

The Round Table reviewed communication for development coordination arrangements around the theme “Moving communication for development up the international development agenda: demonstrating impact and positioning institutionally”. Participants included 14 UN agencies, funds and programmes, along with representatives of the UN Secretariat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee, academia, civil society and donors.

Participants agreed to articulate and promote communication for development at country and regional levels and to coordinate more closely with other agency mechanisms, including the United Nations Development Group. It was considered necessary to plan advocacy measures that would promote communication for development in policy guidelines within UN agencies; and important to produce practical tools that could demonstrate how communication for development contributed to programme priorities, and to strengthen UN capacity through learning frameworks. Participants decided to develop communication for development indicators and compile tools and resource material available with different agencies, and to pursue the institutionalization of communication for development, including integration in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework “90” rollout. Participating UN system organizations agreed to design and implement advocacy actions to integrate communication for development practice in national development plans; develop communication monitoring and evaluation indicators that were valid for the UN system and its Member States; introduce learning and capacity enhancement measures; and consolidate case studies demonstrating the diverse approaches of communication for development practice in the UN system.

Cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet

In a June report [E/2009/92], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 63/202 [YUN 2008, p. 928], the Secretary-General reviewed steps taken to enhance cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and summarized recommendations proposed by relevant organizations on the way forward. All organizations reported that they had made efforts to reach out to other stakeholders; almost all had participated in the Internet Governance Forum (see below), and most were represented in the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group of the Forum. While most organizations interpreted enhanced cooperation as a process to facilitate and contribute to multi-stakeholder dialogue through formal or informal cooperative arrangements, one challenge to the effective monitoring of progress towards implementation of the Tunis Agenda was the absence of practical guidance on what constituted an enhanced level of cooperation. The report summarized recommendations made by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the International Telecommunication Union, the World Wide Web Consortium, the Council of Europe, the Internet Society and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Economic and Social Council on 24 July deferred consideration of the Secretary-General's report until its substantive 2010 session (**decision 2009/220**).

Global Alliance for ICT and Development. The Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development, established in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1004], continued to focus its attention on helping to mainstream ICT into the UN development agenda and on helping developing countries to integrate ICT into their national development strategies and programmes. The annual meeting of the Global Alliance and its forum (Monterrey, Mexico, 31 August–4 September) discussed how best to use ICT to strengthen education.

Internet Governance Forum. Established in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1001] to support the Secretary-General in carrying out the wsis mandate to convene a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on Internet governance issues, the Internet Governance Forum held its fourth meeting (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 15–18 November) on the theme “Internet Governance—Creating Opportunities for All”. Its sessions addressed managing critical Internet resources; security, openness and privacy; diversity; access; Internet governance in the light of wsis principles; and the impact of social networks. More than 1,800 participants from 112 countries attended the event.

Follow-up to World Summit on the Information Society

In response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001] and 2007/8 [YUN 2007, p. 853], the Secretary-General in March reported [A/64/64-E/2009/10] on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the wsis outcomes at the regional and international levels. The report incorporated analyses of responses provided by 20 international and regional organizations on trends, achievements and obstacles to wsis implementation. It also highlighted major initiatives undertaken since February 2008, as reported by the relevant organizations.

At the regional level, the UN regional commissions continued to support wsis implementation through their respective action plans. Activities reported included the facilitation of the sharing of best-practice experiences at the regional level, support for national Governments in policy development, e-services deployment and capacity-building efforts.

At the international level, the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) [YUN 2006, p. 1000] held its third meeting on 18 September 2008, attended by representatives from 12 UN bodies. Among other issues, the Group discussed the relationship between UNGIS and the United Nations Development Group and how to achieve a better integration of strategies and actions harnessing ICT for development into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the Common Country Assessments. UN system entities working closely with Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector, reported on programme activities in wsis implementation.

The Secretary-General concluded that there was a need for greater coordination among the leading facilitator agencies and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development secretariat, with a view to streamlining and clustering wsis-related events into a one-week event, to take place back-to-back with the Commission's annual regular session. There was also a need to benchmark progress towards the attainment of the targets and goals set out in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The Secretary-General also recommended that the Commission focus not only on the positive sides of the emerging information society, but also on the various risks, including cybercrime. Empowerment and the strengthening of democratic processes and ICT in education should be priority themes for the Commission. Greater attention should also be given by all stakeholders to the potential contributions of ICT towards the MDGs and the reduction of poverty.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report on 31 July (**decision 2009/257**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 36], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2009/31], adopted **resolution 2009/7** without vote [agenda item 13 (b)].

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

The Economic and Social Council,

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

Recognizing the efforts by all stakeholders to implement the outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit, while recognizing also the efforts of United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations in facilitating activities among different stakeholders,

Recalling the agreements by which the United Nations recognized various organizations as specialized agencies within the United Nations system,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions founding the United Nations programmes,

Recalling further its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 entitled "Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development" and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also its resolutions 2007/8 of 25 July 2007 on the flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit and 2008/3 of 18 July 2008 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 63/202 of 19 December 2008 on information and communication technologies for development,

Noting the outcomes of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held in Santiago from 12 to 14 November 2008, and the summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,

Taking note of the respective reports of the Council of Europe, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, the Internet Governance Forum, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Universal Postal Union, the World Health Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, all of which were used as inputs to the report of the Secretary-General,

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

1. *Reaffirms* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges;

2. *Recognizes* that the economic downturn has led to a slowdown in investment, but at the same time notes the resilience of the information and communications technology sectors and their potential contribution to speeding up global economic recovery;

3. *Notes* that, while the digital divide may be shrinking in some areas, many challenges remain, with large disparities still existing in terms of access to information and communications technologies and knowledge, penetration and affordability, both between developed and developing countries and within countries and regions, and, moreover, new forms of digital divide emerging with regard to broadband access and local digital content;

4. *Stresses* the need to bridge the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all, a need that poses a challenge for many countries, which are forced to choose between many competing objectives in their development planning and in demands for development funds, while having limited resources;

5. *Notes with dissatisfaction* that, for the majority of the poor, the developmental promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

6. *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 new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

7. *Notes* that considerable efforts were undertaken and progress was made in 2008 towards the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and that numerous activities have been reported by the different entities of the United Nations system, although various relevant activities by non-governmental actors were not reflected by the reporting mechanism in place;

8. *Takes note* of the respective reports of many United Nations entities, with their own executive summaries, submitted as inputs for the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and published on the website of the Commission, as mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2007/8;

9. *Notes* the holding of the cluster of events related to the World Summit in an improved format, renamed the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2009, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines, and notes that the inclusiveness, interactivity and depth of the discussions of the Forum on the implementation of those action lines in a multi-stakeholder framework can be further enhanced;

10. *Recalls* the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

11. *Notes* the results of the fourth meeting of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, held in Geneva on 22 May 2009, which included an agreement to organize open consultations on financial mechanisms, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2008/3, and highlights the role of the Group in facilitating the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit under the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, pursuant to paragraph 103 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

12. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations 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;

13. *Notes with regret* that, more than three years after the second phase of the World Summit, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, the updated guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks still do not reflect the recommendations contained in the outcomes of the World Summit and do not contain a component on information and communications technology for development, and urges that the coordinated action necessary for the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 100 of the Tunis Agenda be taken;

14. *Reaffirms* the principles enunciated in the first phase of the World Summit, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public, that its governance should constitute a core issue of the information society agenda and that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, and should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism;

15. *Notes* the discussions in the Internet Governance Forum, in its capacity as a multi-stakeholder platform for discussing public policy issues related to Internet governance, which were reflected by the Secretary-General in his report, expresses appreciation for the work done by the Chair, the secretariat and the host Governments of the Forum, and looks forward to the convening of the fourth meeting of the Forum, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 15 to 18 November 2009;

16. *Encourages* all stakeholders to contribute to the online consultations regarding the "desirability of the continuation" of the Internet Governance Forum, as envisaged in paragraph 76 of the Tunis Agenda, taking into consideration the stakeholders in developing areas that have been unable to get connected online, and urges the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to have broad-based consultations;

17. *Notes* that paragraph 80 of the Tunis Agenda refers to the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels;

18. *Recognizes* the contribution of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2008 towards enhanced cooperation;

19. *Notes* the conclusion reached by the Secretary-General on the basis of performance reports received from ten organizations relevant to Internet governance that, while the efforts made varied in nature among the organizations, the call in the Tunis Agenda for enhanced cooperation has been taken seriously by these organizations, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on progress made towards enhanced cooperation;

20. *Also notes* that topics that were not central at the first and second phases of the World Summit continue to emerge, such as the potential of information and communications technologies to combat climate change, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, particularly against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

21. *Further notes* that a rising level of Internet penetration alone does not necessarily guarantee an information society for all and that the information society requires complementary efforts and funds to make access affordable and to facilitate the development of the skills needed to make use of services and equipment and to develop local content;

22. *Notes* the contribution of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development to the twelfth session of the Commission, held in Geneva from 25 to 29 May 2009;

23. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, host of the second phase of the World Summit, to organize annually the ICT 4 All Forum and technological exhibition as a platform for promoting a dynamic business environment for the information and communications technology sector worldwide;

24. *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 affected countries and hinders their well-being;

The road ahead

25. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue their efforts to implement the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people and thereby help to bridge the digital divide;

26. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to assist developing countries in their efforts towards narrowing the digital divide, particularly with regard to access, affordability, broadband speed, local content and data privacy;

27. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue to cooperate on and to develop information and communications technology partnerships towards capacity-building, transfer of technology and knowledge, and research and development;

28. *Recognizes* the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technologies for Development, its institutional strengthening and the creation of a working group to measure the economic and social impact of information and communications technologies, recalls Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/3, in which the Council acknowledged the work of the Partnership on developing indicators, and recommends that the Partnership consider the development of benchmarks and impact indicators for further consideration by the Statistical Commission;

29. *Notes* the efforts made in developing tools to assess the global digital divide, including the International Telecommunication Union Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

30. *Encourages* all stakeholders to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including the need for broadband access at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide between and within countries;

31. *Also encourages* all stakeholders to increase efforts to implement the information and communications technology accessibility concept as contained in article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

32. *Calls upon* all stakeholders, in the interest of future generations, to give due attention to digital preservation, and commends the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its partners for their work on the World Digital Library, which was inaugurated on 21 April 2009;

33. *Takes note* of the importance of efforts to reduce the environmental effects of the information and communications technology sector and at the same time of the potential of information and communications technologies to reduce environmental impacts in other sectors;

34. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing efforts at the national and international levels to address privacy and security concerns in the use of information and communications technology, and encourages Governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders, to develop effective approaches in this regard;

35. *Urges* those United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps for and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the

internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

36. *Encourages* the World Summit action line facilitators to increase their efforts to include all stakeholders in the process designed to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines and to further enhance the interactivity of this process;

37. *Encourages* the regional commissions to continue to share best practices among themselves in order to improve the overall implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit;

38. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities, including the regional commissions, to support the development and implementation of national e-strategies in developing and least developed countries, while encouraging international collaboration, especially South-South cooperation and North-South partnerships, with a view to determining best practices and sharing experiences and resources;

39. *Takes note* of World Summit action line C7 (e-health) and the Millennium Development Goals related to health, as well as the theme for the 2009 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health";

40. *Encourages* Governments to strive to use information and communications technology to achieve the health-related internationally agreed development goals by increasing multi-stakeholder coordinated efforts at the national and international levels;

41. *Encourages* the development of identified national health priorities and of a national e-health policy and strategy that brings together the health and information and communications technology sectors to articulate information and communications technology implementation policies and plans for public health;

42. *Encourages* the World Health Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other United Nations agencies and bodies to coordinate their activities and to work closely with relevant stakeholders to develop guidelines for data exchange, which is essential to the successful implementation of health-related information and communications technology applications and the infrastructure that supports them;

43. *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;

44. *Recommends* mainstreaming information and communications technologies in the economy as a driver of growth and sustainable development, and encourages all stakeholders to continue engaging in people-centred partnerships as an effective way forward;

45. *Encourages* the World Summit action line facilitators and moderators for action lines C3 (access to information and knowledge) and C7 (e-science and e-health) to collaborate with the Commission in the context of its traditional mandate;

46. *Requests* the Commission, during its thirteenth session, to be held at the halfway point to the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Sum-

mit in 2015, to organize a substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of those outcomes during the first five years, to include consideration of modalities for the implementation of and follow-up to those outcomes, and invites all facilitators and stakeholders to take this into account in the context of their contribution to that session;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, an executive summary on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit by each United Nations agency and programme;

48. *Urges* all United Nations bodies to contribute to the executive summary mentioned in paragraph 47 above, by listing the decisions and resolutions of their relevant organs as well as their relevant plans and activities;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Economic and Social Council resolutions on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit.

Cybersecurity

The General Assembly in 2009 considered the issue of cybersecurity, and offered Member States a voluntary self-assessment tool to aid them in reviewing national efforts on cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/422/Add.3], adopted **resolution 64/211** without vote [agenda item 55 (c)].

Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001 on combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, 57/239 of 20 December 2002 on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and 58/199 of 23 December 2003 on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003, 59/61 of 3 December 2004, 60/45 of 8 December 2005, 61/54 of 6 December 2006, 62/17 of 5 December 2007 and 63/37 of 2 December 2008 on developments with respect to information technologies in the context of international security,

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 (first phase) and in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005 (second phase),

Recognizing that confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies are among the main pillars of the information society and that a robust global culture of cybersecurity needs to be encouraged, promoted, developed and vigorously implemented,

Recognizing also the increasing contribution made by networked information technologies to many of the essential functions of daily life, commerce and the provision of goods and services, research, innovation and entrepreneurship, and to the free flow of information among individuals and organizations, Governments, business and civil society,

Recognizing further that, in a manner appropriate to their roles, Governments, business, organizations and individual owners and users of information technologies must assume responsibility for and take steps to enhance the security of these information technologies,

Recognizing the importance of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum as a multi-stakeholder dialogue to discuss various matters, including public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, and reiterating that all Governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet,

Reaffirming the continuing need to enhance cooperation, 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 the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues,

Recognizing that each country will determine its own critical information infrastructures,

Reaffirming the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing that gaps in access to and use of information technologies by States can diminish their economic prosperity, and reaffirming also the effectiveness of cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technology and in creating a global culture of cybersecurity,

Stressing the need for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide in order to achieve universal access to information and communications technologies and to protect critical information infrastructures by facilitating the transfer of information technology and capacity-building to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the areas of cybersecurity best practices and training,

Expressing concern that threats to the reliable functioning of critical information infrastructures and to the integrity of the information carried over those networks are growing in both sophistication and gravity, affecting domestic, national and international welfare,

Affirming that the security of critical information infrastructures is a responsibility Governments must address systematically and an area in which they must lead nationally, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, who in turn must be aware of relevant risks, preventive measures and effective responses in a manner appropriate to their respective roles,

Recognizing that national efforts should be supported by international information-sharing and collaboration, so as to effectively confront the increasingly transnational nature of such threats,

Noting the work of relevant regional and international organizations on enhancing cybersecurity, and reiterating their role in encouraging national efforts and fostering international cooperation,

Noting also the 2009 report of the International Telecommunication Union on securing information and communication networks and best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity, which focused on a comprehensive national approach to cybersecurity consistent with free speech, the free flow of information and due process of law,

Recognizing that national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures benefit from a periodic assessment of their progress,

1. *Invites* Member States to use, if and when they deem appropriate, the annexed voluntary self-assessment tool for national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures in order to assist in assessing their efforts in this regard to strengthen their cybersecurity, so as to highlight areas for further action, with the goal of increasing the global culture of cybersecurity;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations that have developed strategies to deal with cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures to share their best practices and measures that could assist other Member States in their efforts to facilitate the achievement of cybersecurity by providing such information to the Secretary-General for compilation and dissemination to Member States.

ANNEX

Voluntary self-assessment tool for national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures

Taking stock of cybersecurity needs and strategies

1. Assess the role of information and communications technologies in your national economy, national security, critical infrastructures (such as transportation, water and food supplies, public health, energy, finance, emergency services) and civil society.

2. Determine the cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection risks to your economy, national security, critical infrastructures and civil society that must be managed.

3. Understand the vulnerabilities of the networks in use, the relative levels of threat faced by each sector at present and the current management plan; note how changes in the economic environment, national security priorities and civil society needs affect these calculations.

4. Determine the goals of the national cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection strategy; describe its goals, the current level of implementation, measures that exist to gauge its progress, its relation to other national policy objectives and how such a strategy fits within regional and international initiatives.

Stakeholder roles and responsibilities

5. Determine key stakeholders with a role in cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection

and describe the role of each in the development of relevant policies and operations, including:

- National Government ministries or agencies, noting primary points of contact and responsibilities of each;
- Other government (local and regional) participants;
- Non-governmental actors, including industry, civil society and academia;
- Individual citizens, noting whether average users of the Internet have access to basic training in avoiding threats online and whether there is a national awareness-raising campaign regarding cybersecurity.

Policy processes and participation

6. Identify formal and informal venues that currently exist for Government-industry collaboration in the development of cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection policy and operations; determine participants, role(s) and objectives, methods for obtaining and addressing input, and adequacy in achieving relevant cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection goals.

7. Identify other forums or structures that may be needed to integrate the government and non-government perspectives and knowledge necessary to realize national cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection goals.

Public-private cooperation

8. Collect all actions taken and plans to develop collaboration between government and the private sector, including any arrangements for information-sharing and incident management.

9. Collect all current and planned initiatives to promote shared interests and address common challenges among both critical infrastructure participants and private-sector actors mutually dependent on the same interconnected critical infrastructure.

Incident management and recovery

10. Identify the Government agency that serves as the coordinator for incident management, including capability for watch, warning, response and recovery functions; the cooperating Government agencies; non-governmental cooperating participants, including industry and other partners; and any arrangements in place for cooperation and trusted information-sharing.

11. Separately, identify national-level computer incident response capacity, including any computer incident response team with national responsibilities and its roles and responsibilities, including existing tools and procedures for the protection of Government computer networks, and existing tools and procedures for the dissemination of incident-management information.

12. Identify networks and processes of international cooperation that may enhance incident response and contingency planning, identifying partners and arrangements for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, where appropriate.

Legal frameworks

13. Review and update legal authorities (including those related to cybercrime, privacy, data protection, commercial law, digital signatures and encryption) that may

be outdated or obsolete as a result of the rapid uptake of and dependence upon new information and communications technologies, and use regional and international conventions, arrangements and precedents in these reviews. Ascertain whether your country has developed necessary legislation for the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime, noting existing frameworks, for example, General Assembly resolutions 55/63 and 56/121 on combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and regional initiatives, including the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

14. Determine the current status of national cybercrime authorities and procedures, including legal authorities and national cybercrime units, and the level of understanding among prosecutors, judges and legislators of cybercrime issues.

15. Assess the adequacy of current legal codes and authorities in addressing the current and future challenges of cybercrime, and of cyberspace more generally.

16. Examine national participation in international efforts to combat cybercrime, such as the round-the-clock Cybercrime Point of Contact Network.

17. Determine the requirements for national law enforcement agencies to cooperate with international counterparts to investigate transnational cybercrime in those instances in which infrastructure is situated or perpetrators reside in national territory, but victims reside elsewhere.

Developing a global culture of cybersecurity

18. Summarize actions taken and plans to develop a national culture of cybersecurity referred to in General Assembly resolutions 57/239 and 58/199, including implementation of a cybersecurity plan for Government-operated systems, national awareness-raising programmes, outreach programmes to, among others, children and individual users, and national cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection training requirements.

Economic and social trends

The *World Economic and Social Survey 2009* [Sales No. E.09.II.C.1; overview E/2009/50], published by DESA, focused on the relation between promoting development and saving the planet. The survey examined climate change and the development challenge; climate mitigation and the energy challenge; adaptation; development policy and the climate challenge; technology transfer and the climate challenge; and financing the development response to climate change. According to the report, the climate challenge required much stronger efforts by advanced countries to cut their emissions. Active participation of developing countries was also required, but such participation could occur only if it allowed economic growth and development to proceed in a rapid and sustainable manner. Switching to low-emissions, high-growth pathways in order to meet the development and climate challenge was both necessary—combating global warm-

ing could not be achieved without eventual emissions reductions from developing countries—and feasible—as technological solutions that could enable a shift towards such pathways did in fact exist. Such a switch would entail unprecedented and potentially very costly socio-economic adjustments in developing countries—adjustments that would require international support and solidarity. Achieving such a transformation hinged on the creation of a global new deal capable of raising investment levels and channelling resources towards lowering the carbon content of economic activity and building resilience with respect to unavoidable climate changes. Most developing countries did not have the financial resources, technological know-how and institutional capacity to deploy such strategies at a speed commensurate with the urgency of the climate challenge. Failure to honour long-standing commitments of international support in those three areas remained the single biggest obstacle to meeting the challenge. In line with common but differentiated responsibilities, the switch would demand an approach to climate policy in developing countries different from that in developed ones. It would, in particular, require a new public policy agenda—one focused on a broad mix of market and non-market measures while placing greater emphasis on public investment and effective industrial policies, to be managed by a developmental State. The mix in developed countries would likely entail a larger role for carbon markets, taxes and regulations. Finally, issues of trust and justice would need to be taken much more seriously so as to ensure fair and inclusive responses to the climate challenge. One determinant of success would be the capacity of developed and developing countries to create a more integrated framework and joint programmes with shared goals on climate adaptation, forestry, energy and poverty eradication.

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009* [Sales No. E.09.II.C.2; update E/2009/73], jointly produced by DESA, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions, examined the global outlook for the world economy, international trade, financing for development, and regional developments and outlook. With the world economy mired in the worst financial and economic crisis since the Second World War, most advanced economies were already in recession, and the outlook for emerging and other developing economies was deteriorating rapidly, including those with a recent history of strong economic performance. The report recommended the implementation of massive, internationally coordinated fiscal stimulus packages that were coherent and mutually reinforcing and aligned with sustainable development goals. That should be effected in addition to the liquidity and recapitalization measures already undertaken by countries in response to the economic crisis.

As immediate solutions were being worked out, it was important to address the systemic causes that led to the crisis through the establishment of a credible and effective mechanism for international policy coordination; fundamental reforms of existing systems of financial regulation and supervision; reform of the international reserve system away from the almost exclusive reliance on the United States dollar and towards a multilaterally backed multi-currency system; and reforms of liquidity provisioning and compensatory financing mechanisms backed through better multilateral and regional pooling of national foreign-exchange reserves that would avoid the onerous policy conditionality attached to existing mechanisms.

The *Trade and Development Report, 2009* [Sales No. E.09.II.D.16], published by UNCTAD, discussed the impact of the global recession, including its relation to the food crisis, and the short-term policy response; the financialization of commodity markets; policies for safer and sounder financial systems; reform of the international monetary and financial system; and climate change mitigation and development. According to the report, an internationally agreed exchange-rate system based on the principle of constant and sustainable real exchange rates of all countries would go a long way towards reducing the scope for speculative capital flows that generated volatility in the international financial system and distorted the pattern of exchange rates. Such a multilateral system would tackle the problem of destabilizing capital flows at its source. It would remove a major incentive for speculation, ensure that monetary factors did not stand in the way of achieving a level playing field for international trade, and avoid debt traps for developing countries. The large fiscal stimulus packages launched in response to the financial and economic crisis offered an ideal opportunity to accelerate structural change towards a low-carbon economy through additional public investment in activities and infrastructure in support of climate change mitigation, and through the provision of subsidies for acquisition of climate-friendly capital goods and durable consumer goods.

Human development

Prepared by the United Nations Development Programme, the *Human Development Report 2009* (HDR 2009) [Sales No. 09.III.B.1] explored how better policies towards human mobility could enhance human development. Topics addressed included freedom and movement: how mobility could foster human development; people in motion: who moved where, when and why; how movers fared; impacts at origin and destination; and policies to enhance human development outcomes. According to the report, large gains to human development could be achieved by lowering barriers to movement and improving the treatment of

movers. The two most important dimensions of the mobility agenda that offered scope for better policies were admissions and treatment. Principal proposed reforms centred around opening up entry channels so that more workers could emigrate; ensuring basic rights for migrants; lowering the transaction costs of migration; finding solutions that benefited both destination communities and the migrants they received; making it easier for people to move within their own countries; and integrating migration into national development strategies.

UNDP consideration. The Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, at its 2009 annual session (New York, 26 May–3 June) [E/2009/35], took note of a March update [DP/2009/17] on HDR 2009 network consultations underpinning the selection of its theme and the informal Executive Board consultations held during its preparation, as well as participatory consultations with experts worldwide.

Development policy and public administration

Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), at its eleventh session (New York, 9–13 March) [E/2009/33], addressed three themes: international cooperation on global public health, particularly the importance of tackling inequalities; the global financial turmoil and its impact on developing countries; and climate change and development. It also conducted its triennial review of the list of the least developed countries (LDCs) (see p. 832).

With regard to international cooperation for health, CDP concluded that much greater consideration should be given to the persistently high inequalities in access to health services and in health outcomes. Such inequalities existed by income groups, gender, race, ethnicity and geography, and were manifest especially in disadvantageous health outcomes for the poorest. Poor health conditions, in turn, affected other dimensions of well-being and were a cause of poorer education performance and lower incomes. Addressing health inequalities required redressing international cooperation in health. It also required that both recipient and donor Governments take an integrated view of the health system, giving priority to primary care and the strengthening of the institutional and technical capacities of health delivery systems.

As for the implications of the global financial crisis for developing countries, the Committee concluded that there was a need to raise the revenue capacity of

Governments through measures that would improve tax collection. International cooperation to combat tax evasion taking place through international tax havens should be a crucial ingredient of those efforts. Enhanced compensatory finance was urgently needed and should be made accessible without the restrictive policy conditions attached to existing mechanisms. A significant part of financing should come from counter-cyclical issuance of special drawing rights (SDRs) by the International Monetary Fund, and the role of SDRs as a global reserve currency should be gradually increased. A global regulatory mechanism of the international financial system needed to be established in order to prevent new crises.

With regard to climate change, every country needed to adopt carbon-saving technologies. Improved governance and a review of the financial architecture for addressing climate change were required in order to ensure policy coherence and a focus on sustainable development. A climate impact vulnerability indicator at the national level to guide adaptation strategies should be developed.

For its forthcoming twelfth session, the Committee would undertake work on the theme of the 2010 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women".

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/35** [draft: E/2009/L.43] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eleventh session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling also its resolutions 2007/34 and 2007/35 of 27 July 2007,

Expressing its conviction that countries graduating from the least developed country category should not have their positive development disrupted or reversed, but rather should be able to continue and sustain their progress and development,

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

2. *Requests* the Committee, at its twelfth session, to examine and make recommendations on the themes chosen by the Economic and Social Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2010;

3. *Takes note* of the proposals made by the Committee regarding its future work programme;

4. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries;

5. *Recommends* that the General Assembly take note of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries;

6. *Reiterates* the importance for development partners to implement concrete measures in support of the transition strategy of ensuring durable graduation;

7. *Requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Invites* the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue the practice of reporting orally on the work of the Committee.

Public administration

Committee of Experts. The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its eighth session (New York, 30 March–3 April) [E/2009/44], had before it notes by the Secretariat on the human factor in capacity-building for development [E/C.16/2009/2], review of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance [E/C.16/2009/3] and mainstreaming of health issues and human capacity-building in public administration [E/C.16/2009/4].

The Committee considered as its main theme the human factor in capacity-building and development. Its principal conclusions were that: there had to be much stronger emphasis on this topic on the part of both the United Nations and Member States; human resources management should be fully integrated into development by repositioning it as a strategic function in public administration and by investing in the development of competent and professional human resources managers in the public service; an efficient, professional and high-performing civil service went hand in hand with legitimate institutions that both implemented public policies efficiently and was accountable, transparent and inclusive; concerted efforts should be made to improve the information technology skill sets of both public employees and citizens, and the enabling power of e-tools harnessed to improve governance and help achieve development goals; and the versatility of the notion of leadership must be recognized in order to link it effectively with the human factor in capacity-building and development.

Regarding the mainstreaming of health issues and human capacity-building in public administration, the Committee recommended that Member States: raise awareness in all sectors and at all levels of government about their respective responsibilities and opportunities to promote, restore and maintain public health and to provide health delivery services;

develop an integrated health policy coordinated with all other policies that had an impact on public health and health services; adopt participatory and citizen-centred approaches to developing national health policies, including via the adequate use of ICT tools; promote reforms of health institutions and establish a strategy based on primary care, universal access and equity in health care; cooperate with each other and with global institutions on a regular basis in order to avoid possible risks posed by a global threat as a result of a new global pandemic and illnesses; promote long-term funding, including public-private partnerships where appropriate, for research and development, and ensure that the health sector did not suffer from budgetary retrenchments during economic crisis; and involve civil society organizations to enhance awareness on health issues among different stakeholders, including public service providers.

As for the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, the Committee requested the Secretariat to continue giving due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives by Member States in support of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs; enhance its work on the development of public sector institutions and resources for the achievement of those goals; support and facilitate the work of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, the Internet Governance Forum, and the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament, and the implementation of the wsis Action Plan on e-government related issues; and work with relevant partners and further develop a global knowledge base of administrative strategies, public policies, expert networks, best practices and lessons learned at the national and subnational levels, within the United Nations Public Administration Network, in order to promote efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and participation in the public sector, and to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

Appointments. In notes of 17 February [E/2009/9/Add.11] and 23 April [E/2009/9/Add.16], the Secretary-General nominated 24 experts to the Committee for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2010. At its seventh meeting on 18 May, the Council approved the nominations [E/2009/SR.7].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July [meeting 42], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration [E/2009/44], adopted **resolution 2009/18** without vote [agenda item 13 (g)].

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, 2007/38 of 4 October 2007 and 2008/32 of 25 July 2008, as well as General Assembly resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004, 60/34 of 30 November 2005 and 63/202 of 19 December 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the pioneering work of the United Nations Programme on Public Administration, Finance and Development in supporting Member States with analytical research, advocacy and advisory and training services for public administrations in the areas of human capacity development, e-government development and citizen engagement since its inception in 1948,

Taking note with appreciation also of the work done by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration at its eighth session, including on the human factor in capacity-building and development, the mainstreaming of health issues and human capacity-building in public administration and the United Nations online glossary on governance and public administration, and taking note with appreciation also of its continual support for the work of the Economic and Social Council concerning the promotion and development of public administration and governance among Member States,

Recognizing that, especially because the conditions and context of development, growth and governance have changed, public administration priorities, including capacity-building for growth and development and ownership of national development, still remain critical cross-cutting issues in addressing the current global financial crisis, climate change and gender equality challenges, as well as for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing with appreciation the substantive contributions made by the current members of the Committee in strengthening public administration capacity at the regional, national and local levels,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighth session that relate to the need for continual capacity-building for development at the national and subnational levels and the need for the Secretariat to continue to enhance its support for capacity-building in the public sector;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the input by the Committee to the 2009 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health";

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to give due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives by Member States through the flagship work of the United Nations Public Service Day and the Public Service Awards in support of the implementation of the internationally agreed

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to further enhance its support for capacity-building through analytical research, advisory services and online and offline training, emphasizing trust building, citizen engagement, human resources and institutional development;

5. *Further requests* the Secretariat, in the light of the fact that the current economic and financial crisis is a daunting challenge to public administration, to enhance its important work on the development of public sector institutions and resources for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by further developing its analytical and advisory capacity and further integrating research and analysis into its normative and operational work and by continuing to work with other partners in developing joint products;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat, in order to facilitate advocacy for and the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, to continue to support and facilitate the work of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, the Internet Governance Forum and the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament, as well as the implementation of the provisions of the Plan of Action that relate to e-government;

7. *Also requests* the Secretariat to work with relevant partners, especially public administration schools and research institutes worldwide, and to further develop and maintain a global knowledge base at the national and subnational levels, within the United Nations Public Administration Network, of administrative strategies, public policies, expert networks, best practices and lessons learned in the areas mentioned above, with the overarching objective of promoting efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and participation in the public sector and supporting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Approves* the convening of the ninth session of the Committee.

Groups of countries in special situations

On 18 September [A/64/423], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, included in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, covering least developed countries and landlocked and transit developing countries, and allocated it to the Second Committee.

On 21 December (**decision 64/542**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee on the subject [A/64/423 & Add.1 & Add.2].

OIOS report. In April, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) issued a report [E/AC.51/2009/2] on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLS) and UN support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). OIOS found that the results frameworks mandated for and embedded in the budgets of both OHRLS and UN support for NEPAD involved the expectation of contributions to change far beyond the realm of the respective programme managers’ influence. Resource and capacity constraints made it unrealistic to exert any detectable influence on, for example, the coordination of UN affairs in Africa. A lack of programmatic focus and insufficient communication with stakeholders worsened the situation.

The main achievement of the two programmes was their contribution to heightened policy attention to the special development needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa at UN-convened global forums. There was an unclear division of labour between the programmes and other UN actors. As perceived by Member States and UN partners, and within the entities themselves, there were multiple interpretations of what their operational priorities should be.

According to the report, considerable overlaps existed between the countries that OHRLS and UN support for NEPAD covered. The potential for synergy between OHRLS and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), as small offices with overlapping mandates, had not been exploited.

Misalignment between budget and organizational structure had led to little coordination within the three subprogrammes under UN support for NEPAD. At the same time, the parallel arrangements of OHRLS and DESA amid a fragmented structure in support of small island developing States needed better coordination.

OIOS recommended that a review be undertaken to translate the respective mandates into a narrower and more clearly defined programmatic focus, and that revised strategic frameworks be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly. OIOS also recommended that reviews be undertaken to combine administrative and advocacy functions of OSAA and OHRLS, and that the three subprogrammes under UN support for NEPAD be brought under the responsibility and oversight of one senior officer. Likewise, the programme of UN system support for NEPAD should formulate a proposal for strengthening support for the regional consultative mechanism for Africa. Lastly, OHRLS and DESA should clarify their respective roles

and develop a joint action plan to bring coherence and provide guidance to UN system efforts in support of small island developing States.

Least developed countries

The special problems of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were considered in several UN forums in 2009, particularly in connection with the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 770] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 55/279 in July of that year [ibid., p. 771]. The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also considered LDC-related issues.

LDC list

In its triennial review of the list of the least developed countries (LDCs) [E/2009/33], defined as low-income countries suffering from severe structural handicaps to growth, CDP found two countries—Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe—eligible for inclusion in the list of LDCs. Both declined, however, to join the category. The Committee found Equatorial Guinea eligible for graduation from the list, and recommended the country's graduation. Tuvalu and Vanuatu were also considered eligible, but were not recommended for graduation. CDP reiterated the importance for graduating countries of developing a smooth transition strategy with the support of their respective development partners. Consequently, in 2009, the number of countries officially designated as LDCs remained at 49 [YUN 2008, p. 938].

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

Programme of Action (2001–2010)

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/227 [YUN 2008,

p. 944] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/31 [YUN 2007, p. 863], the Secretary-General in May submitted a report [A/64/80-E/2009/79] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010. The report examined the impact of the financial and economic crises on LDCs; reviewed the progress made towards the international goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action; and described preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011.

The Secretary-General concluded that the first and immediate concern was to mitigate the effects of the global recession on LDCs. Efforts were required to make the LDCs more resilient to the development shocks caused by their increased integration into the global economy. LDCs, supported by their development partners, needed to integrate actions that would mitigate the anticipated effects of climate change into their national development strategies.

The Secretary-General recommended that the international community ensure that sufficient resources were available to provide food to the most vulnerable people in LDCs and other countries with food deficits. Because LDCs faced not only short-term but also potential long-term food shortage, they and their development partners needed to implement corresponding measures to address that challenge. Since LDCs had very little scope for mitigating the effects of the global recession on their economies and peoples without substantial additional external financial support, all development partners should honour their commitments to increase their official development assistance (ODA), ensuring that those did not fall victim to domestic budgetary pressures. Developing countries in a position to do so, such as oil-producing countries, should consider providing or expanding their support to LDCs. Because LDCs required additional funding to avoid immediate economic hardship and massive human suffering, development partners should respond by fully and promptly implementing the commitments they made at the most recent meetings of the Group of Twenty, the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

Towards reducing vulnerability through diversification of their economies, Governments of LDCs and their development partners should endeavour to sustain their long-term investment in infrastructure, but should continue to rely mainly on the private sector to identify and organize new investments in production facilities. To encourage such diversification, all other countries, including other developing countries, should reduce trade barriers to exports from LDCs, including subsidies granted to their own exports and

domestic production. LDCs needed to reduce their exposure to the volatility of primary commodity markets by enhancing arrangements to absorb the impact of short-term fluctuations in the domestic commodity sector itself, export earnings, Government revenue and in the economy as a whole. LDCs should lay the foundations for systems that would reduce the impact of future shocks on vulnerable groups. Because the high rate of population growth in LDCs continued to intensify their development challenge, dilute achievements and increase vulnerability to shocks, particularly those such as the food crisis and climate change, LDCs should give increased attention to their commitment to making reproductive health accessible to all individuals of appropriate ages no later than 2015.

The ongoing negotiations for a new international agreement on climate change should fully embrace and apply the principle of common but differentiated responsibility to LDCs. LDCs should continue to prepare and implement national adaptation programmes of action for climate change, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups and ecosystems. Development partners, including other developing countries, should give urgent attention to increasing the funding for projects that would enable LDCs to adapt to climate change. Those issues should be among those addressed in the context of the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Communications. In a letter of 10 April [A/63/819-S/2009/204], Mexico transmitted the statement by the States members of the Rio Group and of the Caribbean Community entitled “Towards a new paradigm of cooperation”, issued on 8 April in preparation for the Conference on the Economic and Social Development of Haiti convened by the Government of Haiti (Washington, D.C., 14 April) under the auspices of the Inter-American Development Bank. In a letter of 8 October [A/C.2/64/3], Nepal transmitted the Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries, adopted during the general debate of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly (New York, 29 September).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/31** [draft: E/2009/L.39 & E/2009/SR.45] without vote [agenda item 6 (b)].

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which it decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits”, a regular sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010”,

Reaffirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2009, on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2004 on the theme “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010”,

Recognizing the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Taking note of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of 2008,

Recalling its resolution 2008/37 of 25 July 2008 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which the Assembly decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011,

Recalling further the declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which participating Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations recommitted themselves to meeting the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development,

Emphasizing that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Notes* the economic and social progress made by many least developed countries in recent years, as a result of which a number are moving towards graduation from the list of least developed countries and some are on track to achieve the growth and investment targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 by 2010;

3. *Remains concerned*, however, about the uneven and insufficient progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action at a time when the international community has embarked on preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of such implementation, and stresses the urgent need to address areas of weakness in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in many least developed countries

through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that the number of people living in extreme poverty remains very high in the least developed countries while an increasing number of people, in particular children and women, are at risk of malnutrition, and recognizes that there are important linkages between development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

5. *Expresses concern* about the severe impact of the global financial and economic crisis on developing countries and recognizes that the social and economic progress made in recent years, particularly on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is now threatened in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and resolves to strive to combine short-term responses designed to meet the immediate impact of the financial and economic crisis, particularly on the most vulnerable countries, with medium- and long-term responses;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners, in view of the global crises, to assist the least developed countries in translating the goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions, taking into account their national development priorities, and to collaborate with and provide support to the relevant national development forums and follow-up mechanisms, as appropriate;

7. *Reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

8. *Underlines* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integral approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions aimed, inter alia, at:

- (a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;
- (b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and the international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;
- (c) Building human and institutional capacities;
- (d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;
- (e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;
- (f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;
- (g) Mobilizing financial resources;

9. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, by translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, by promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and by enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management;

10. *Urges* development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to make every effort to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

11. *Reiterates its invitation* to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to the graduated country and to consider either extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing such trade preferences in a phased manner;

12. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offers of the Governments of Austria and Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011;

13. *Reiterates* the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227 that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would be the focal point for the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in accordance with mandates given in Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

14. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures to prepare for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as well as to implement the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action, in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in a coordinated and coherent manner, inter alia, by making use of the existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system;

17. *Reiterates* the request of the General Assembly to the organizations of the United Nations system and the invitation of the General Assembly to the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to the Conference itself;

18. *Expresses concern* about the insufficient resources in the trust fund established for the participation of the least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, and expresses appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions;

19. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, invites donor countries to continue to support the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review, including by contributing in an adequate and timely manner to the special trust fund established for that purpose, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced and to provide information on the status of the trust fund;

20. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure follow-up to the development of such countries in the broader context of the world economy and to contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

Trade and Development Board action. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, at its fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 14–25 September and 12 October) [A/64/15 (Part IV)], considered the eighth progress report [TD/B/56/2 & Corr.1] on UNCTAD-wide activities in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, and adopted agreed conclusions [496 (LVI)] on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Board took note of *The Least Developed Countries Report 2009: The State and Development Governance* [Sales No. E.09.II.D.9], prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, and stressed the importance of government policies to promote development and poverty reduction in LDCs, including agricultural and industrial policies which contributed to developing productive capacities, while stressing the importance of a conducive environment for business and private sector initiative. According to the report, whose topics included the global economic crisis, the role of the State, macroeconomic challenges, agricultural policy, and industrial policy, LDC Governments should view the global economic crisis as a potential turning point in their development. They needed to shift towards a catch-up growth strategy based on the development of productive capacities and expansion of productive employment opportunities.

Preparatory process for Fourth UN Conference on LDCs

In May [A/64/80-E/2009/79], the Secretary-General reported on the substantive, organizational and logistical preparations for the Fourth United Nations Con-

ference on the Least Developed Countries, which the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/227, decided to convene in 2011 [YUN 2008, p. 944]. OHRLS—the focal point for the preparations for the Conference—had prepared a concept note to facilitate intergovernmental, regional and national preparations and to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders. The concept note was presented to the first meeting of the inter-agency consultative group convened by OHRLS (New York, March 2008), attended by senior officials from more than 30 UN system and international organizations, which served to launch the system-wide preparations for the Conference. Guidelines were being prepared to assist LDCs in the organization of national reviews and the preparation of national reports. OHRLS had been consulting with two potential host countries, Austria and Turkey, on the venue for the event.

The Conference, the Secretary-General said, would be critical to restoring the momentum of development to the world's most vulnerable countries and to providing hope for many of the world's poorest people. To facilitate the preparatory process, the General Assembly should decide on the pending organizational aspects of the Conference, including the schedule of meetings for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the venue of the Conference itself.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/423/Add.1], adopted **resolution 64/213** without vote [agenda item 56 (a)].

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling its resolution 61/1 of 19 September 2006, entitled “Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010”,

Recalling also its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at a high level,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 29 September 2009,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/31 of 31 July 2009 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

Recalling also the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries,

Recalling further the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, where it was recognized that the economic and social progress achieved by the least developed countries in recent years is being threatened by the global economic and financial crisis and that, in order to adequately respond to the crisis, developing countries, especially the least developed countries, will need a larger share of any additional resources, both short-term liquidity and long-term development financing,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

Urging the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management,

Urging development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action, and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010;

2. *Also takes note* of the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

3. *Welcomes and accepts with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Conference;

4. *Decides* to convene the Conference in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days, from within existing resources, at a venue and time to be determined in consultation with the host Government;

5. *Also decides* that the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee envisaged in paragraph 5 of resolution 63/227 will be organized in New York in two parts, from 10 to 14 January 2011 and from 18 to 25 April 2011, each of five working days;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, as requested in resolution 63/227, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, and funds and programmes, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in preparations for the Conference, in particular in country- and regional-level preparations;

9. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to the Conference and its preparatory process, stresses, in this regard, the need for active participation, including from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make appropriate contributions for that purpose;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls upon the Governments of the least developed countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

13. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in close coordination and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to provide the necessary substantive and organizational arrangements and to organize the regional-level preparatory review meetings in the context of the annual sessions of 2010 of their respective commissions, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 as well as on the implementation of the present resolution, including the state of the substantive, organizational and logistic preparations for the Conference.

Small island developing States

During 2009, UN bodies continued to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action), adopted in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 783]. Member States also reviewed the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the 2005 International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action [YUN 2005, p. 946].

Commission on Sustainable Development consideration. Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/213 [YUN 2008, p. 946], the Commission on Sustainable Development, on 15 May [E/2009/29 (res. 17/2)], resolved to use the Small Island Developing States Day (10 May) in 2010 as a preparatory committee meeting for the high-level review, in September 2010, of progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. The meeting would consider a synthesis report to be prepared by the Secretary-General.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 July [meeting 42], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/17** [draft: E/2009/L.35 & E/2009/SR.42] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

Review of United Nations support for small island developing States

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), as well as the outcomes of other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also the Declaration of Barbados, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 63/213 of 19 December 2008 and reaffirming the importance of follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and reaffirming also the importance of the two-day high-level review, to be conducted at the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly, of the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States,

Recognizing that, although they are afflicted by economic difficulties and confronted by development imperatives similar to those of developing countries generally, small island developing States also have their own peculiar vulnerabilities and characteristics, which render the difficulties that they face in the pursuit of sustainable development particularly severe and complex,

Noting that the United Nations designation "small island developing States" is a useful and important tool for recognizing and responding to the particular vulnerabilities and characteristics of small island developing States and for assisting them in their pursuit of sustainable development,

1. *Requests* all relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates, to contribute to the report requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 21 of its resolution 63/213;

2. *Invites* the Committee for Development Policy to consider the findings of the report requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 21 of its resolution 63/213, as well as supporting documentation, and to submit its independent views and perspectives on United Nations support for small island developing States to the Economic and Social Council, prior to its substantive session of 2010, and notes, in this regard, that the Secretary-General may wish to provide the Committee with supplemental information on United Nations institutional, administrative and technical support for small island developing States;

3. *Decides* to consider the issue at its substantive session of 2010 and to make available a summary of the debate held during that session, together with the independent views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy, as a contribution to the two-day high-level review, to be conducted at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report [A/64/278], submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/213 [YUN 2008, p. 946], the Secretary-General presented an overview of arrangements being made for the high-level review (see above). The report also provided an account of the continuing efforts of small island developing States, with the support of the UN system and the international community, for follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

The Secretary-General concluded that concerted efforts were being made by small island developing States to implement meaningful policies and adaptation strategies to address their vulnerabilities and build resilience at the national level. It was expected that the forthcoming review process would promote a thorough examination and assessment of the ongoing and emerging economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities of small island developing States and provide an opportunity for them to showcase their successes and demonstrate the continuing shortfalls in capacity which undermined their efforts to pursue a sustainable development path or to respond to exogenous shocks. The scaling-up of support from the

international community, especially through concessionary financing, the transfer of technology and support for capacity-building would enhance the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development. Work in preparation for the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy was progressing steadily, with strong involvement and commitment on the part of UN system partners and regional organizations, and with the support of the international community. The fullest participation of all Member States, the UN system, international organizations and civil society was strongly encouraged to ensure the success of the high-level meeting in reviewing progress made by small island developing States in strengthening indigenous capacity to address their vulnerabilities, and in assessing how those Member States might best be served through the continued support of the international community. It was also anticipated that the confluence of important, mutually reinforcing review processes during 2010, notably those relating to implementation of the MDGs, biodiversity and the least developed countries, would result in a richer debate and a more meaningful outcome to the review of the Mauritius Strategy.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/420/Add.2], adopted **resolution 64/199** without vote [agenda item 53 (b)].

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

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

Reaffirming also the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ("Mauritius Strategy for Implementation"), adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

Recalling its resolutions 59/311 of 14 July 2005, 60/194 of 22 December 2005, 61/196 of 20 December 2006, 62/191 of 19 December 2007 and 63/213 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Reaffirming also that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant and specific risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, that the effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of them and that, given their vulnerability, adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise therefore remains a major priority for small island developing States,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Underlining the importance of developing and strengthening national sustainable development strategies in small island developing States,

Recalling the decision to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a two-day high-level review in September 2010 as part of its sixty-fifth session, to assess progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

3. *Decides* that the high-level review will be structured around an opening plenary meeting, followed by two multi-stakeholder round-table sessions, an interactive dialogue on cross-regional perspectives and a closing plenary meeting;

4. *Also decides* that the review will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the General Assembly to present a concise draft political declaration based on, inter alia, inputs from the preparatory meetings, at an appropriate date to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States;

5. *Reaffirms* that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct a thorough assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and to agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

6. *Decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the national and regional levels, and also decides that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, should organize, facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this context, to provide a comprehensive report on progress made and on the continuing challenges faced in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, noting the importance of paragraphs 87, 88 and 101 of the Mauritius Strategy and of taking into account cross-cutting implementation issues;

8. *Decides* that the meeting of the preparatory committee for the high-level review will be convened during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with Commission resolution 17/2 of 15 May 2009;

9. *Invites* the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the high-level review, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process thereof, as observers, in the same capacity specified for their participation at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005;

10. *Invites* all Member States and States members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly, to participate fully in the preparatory activities and the high-level review;

11. *Urges* that representation and participation at the high-level review be at the highest possible level, including with the participation of Heads of State or Government;

12. *Invites* heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as heads of intergovernmental organizations and entities having observer status in the General Assembly, to participate, as appropriate, in the review, in accordance with the rules and procedures as established by the General Assembly;

13. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and other major groups, in preparing for the high-level review, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the International Meeting held in Mauritius, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the high-level review, and in this context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the high-level review;

14. *Encourages* relevant major groups organizations that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council to submit applications to participate as observers in the high-level review, as well as its preparatory meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, following the accreditation procedures established during the International Meeting held in Mauritius;

15. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the contribution of Member States and other international donors to support activities related to small island developing States, including through the voluntary trust fund;

16. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, other major groups and other donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review and the various preparatory processes;

17. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;

18. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and encourages small island developing States and their development partners to continue to consult widely in order to develop further concrete projects and programmes for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

19. *Encourages* enhanced, closer and early consultation with small island developing States in the planning and coordination, as appropriate, of the activities related to the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and emphasizes the importance of enhanced interaction between small island developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system addressing issues concerning small island developing States;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the Small Island Developing States Unit with adequate, stable and predictable funding to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the priority accorded to the Unit and in view of the demand for its services, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance, technical cooperation services and support to small island developing States;

21. *Also reiterates* the importance of ensuring sufficient and sustainable staffing of the Small Island Developing States Unit so that it may undertake its broad range of mandated functions with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

22. *Calls for* the provision of new and additional voluntary resources to ensure the revitalization and sustainability of the Small Island Developing States Information Network, and in this regard welcomes the contribution of the Government of Spain to support the revitalization of the Network;

23. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;

24. *Reiterates its request* to the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to intensify efforts aimed at mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in their work programmes and to establish a focal point for matters related to small island developing States within their respective secretariats to support coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

25. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance its support for the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity as a set of actions to address characteristics and problems that are specific to islands, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting, in 2006;

26. *Calls for* continued support for the design and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in all small island developing States;

27. *Encourages* the implementation of partnership initiatives, within the framework of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

28. *Invites* the small island developing States to consider, at their relevant intergovernmental meetings, assessments of and relevant contributions to the review process;

29. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including by facilitating the participation of small island developing States in review activities;

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

Communication. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 October [A/C.2/64/11], Grenada transmitted the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Declaration on Climate Change 2009, adopted at the AOSIS Summit on Climate Change (New York, 21 September).

Landlocked developing countries

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 63/228 [YUN 2008, p. 954], the Secretary-General in August reported [A/64/268] on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted in 2003 by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation [YUN 2003, p. 875]. The report described the overall socio-economic situation in landlocked developing countries and the four priority areas of the Pro-

gramme of Action: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; and international support measures. It also outlined the implementation and review of the Programme of Action.

The Secretary-General stated that in response to the declaration on the midterm review of the Programme of Action adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 63/2 [YUN 2008, p. 949], OHRLLS convened the Fifth Inter-agency Consultative Meeting on the Almaty Programme Implementation (Geneva, 2 March). The Meeting endorsed a matrix containing activities and programmes to be implemented by UN system and other international organizations in order to ensure better coordination of and synergy in their efforts regarding intergovernmental processes; transit policy issues; transit transport infrastructure; international trade and trade facilitation; and resources mobilization. The matrix would be reviewed regularly to monitor progress.

UN system organizations continued their efforts to develop internationally acceptable indicators to measure progress in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action. OHRLLS compiled revised statistics with the latest available data on macroeconomic variables, ODA, debt sustainability and participation in international trade, as well as selected transport infrastructure indicators. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific expanded its training and advisory services on the practical applications of the time/cost-distance methodology as a tool for identifying, isolating and addressing the major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient cross-border transport.

The Secretary-General concluded that inherent geographical difficulties and poorly developed transport, communications and border management and logistics systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries hampered their productivity, growth, and poverty reduction. High trade transaction costs lay at the core of the continued marginalization of the landlocked developing countries within the world economy. Lack of export diversification, and concentration on few export commodities, associated with low foreign-exchange reserves and dependence on external financial flows, exposed them to severe external shocks. The Almaty Programme of Action remained a sound global framework for establishing genuine partnerships at the bilateral, regional and international levels aimed at addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries by establishing efficient transit transport systems. Its implementation and that of the declaration on the midterm review of the Programme of Action should be accelerated.

The Secretary-General recommended pursuing policies to enhance domestic competitiveness of land-

locked developing countries through investment in building productive capacities, reducing commodity dependence, improving transit transport infrastructure, reforming transit policies, liberalizing transport services and implementing trade facilitation measures at national and regional levels. Broader and more effective cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries was necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders. The role of regional and sub-regional organizations should be strengthened, as they were crucial to the development of regional integrated infrastructure networks, completion of missing links, implementation of trade facilitation measures and broader application of information technology.

The United Nations and other international organizations should provide greater support to landlocked and transit developing countries through technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation. Landlocked and transit developing countries should also continue to make efforts to accede to multilateral conventions in the area of transit transport and trade. There was a need for additional international development assistance in the form of flexible, concessional and fast-disbursing financial resources to assist landlocked developing countries facing financing gaps. Bilateral and multilateral donors should increase their financial support to fill infrastructure gaps in landlocked and transit developing countries through grants and concessional loans so as to improve the level of intraregional connectivity, with a view to ensuring completion, upgrading and maintenance of strategic sea corridors extended into landlocked countries.

Special attention should be given to landlocked developing countries in the context of the Aid for Trade initiative [YUN 2005, p. 1043]. A development-supportive accession of landlocked developing countries to the World Trade Organization should be ensured through targeted technical assistance. The United Nations and other international organizations should provide greater support for the strengthening of the negotiating capacities of landlocked developing countries and their ability to implement trade facilitation measures. Strong political commitment was needed to promote combined climate and development goals and ensure increasing adaptive resilience with respect to the unavoidable consequences of climate change.

Communications. In separate letters of 5 October, Mali transmitted the communiqué adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at their eighth annual meeting (New York, 25 September) [A/C.2/64/4] and the rules of procedure adopted by them at the same meeting [A/C.2/64/5].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/423/Add.2], adopted **resolution 64/214** without vote [agenda item 56 (b)].

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007 and 63/228 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

Recalling its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Communiqué of the Eighth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2009,

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development, an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with the landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to address urgently the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

6. *Invites* Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and multilateral financial and development institutions to accelerate the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

7. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance reform efforts and that donor countries, financial and development institutions and international and regional organizations have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems;

8. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized in international trade, which prevents them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems and achieve their development goals, including the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, and stresses the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries;

10. *Calls upon* donors and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications, so as to

promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

11. *Stresses* the need to attract private investment, including foreign direct investment, and that private sector participation through co-financing can play a catalytic role in this regard, and recalls that, notwithstanding the increase of flows in foreign direct investment, private sector involvement in infrastructure development still has considerable potential;

12. *Underscores* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, and notes that the ongoing World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations on trade facilitation, particularly on the relevant articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, such as those referred to in the Declaration on the midterm review, are important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs;

13. *Calls upon* the development partners to effectively operationalize the Aid for Trade Initiative so as to support trade facilitation measures and trade-related technical assistance, as well as the diversification of export products through the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and private-sector involvement in landlocked developing countries;

14. *Encourages* the international community to enhance efforts to facilitate access to and encourage the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology;

15. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

16. *Encourages* landlocked and transit developing countries to pursue the harmonization of trade and transit transport facilitation procedures and to continue to make efforts to accede to relevant multilateral conventions in the area of transit transport and trade;

17. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations, and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

18. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective

monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts directed towards raising international awareness and mobilizing resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

19. *Welcomes* the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in Ulaanbaatar to enhance analytical capability within landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, and invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, as well as relevant interna-

tional and regional organizations, to assist the landlocked developing countries in implementing the activities of the international think tank;

20. *Encourages* donors and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".