



General Assembly

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Agenda item 21 (b)

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

**Chile, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and United
States of America: draft resolution**

International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2015

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of light and light-based technologies in the lives of the citizens of the world and for the future development of global society on many levels,

Stressing that enhanced global awareness of and increased education in the science and technologies of light are vital for addressing challenges such as sustainable development, energy and community health, as well as for improving the quality of life in both developed and developing countries,

Considering that the applications of light science and technology are vital for existing and future advances in medicine, energy, information and communications, fibre optics, astronomy, architecture, archaeology, entertainment and culture, and that light-based technologies directly respond to the needs of humankind, in the context of ongoing discussions related to the definition of the post-2015 development agenda, by providing access to information and increasing societal health and well-being,

Considering also that technology and design can play an important role in the achievement of greater energy efficiency and the preservation of dark skies, as well as in the reduction of light pollution and energy waste,

Noting that the year 2015 coincides with the anniversaries of a series of important milestones in the history of the science of light, including the works on optics by Ibn Al-Haytham in 1015, the notion of light as a wave proposed by Fresnel in 1815, the electromagnetic theory of light propagation proposed by Maxwell in 1865, Einstein's theory of the photoelectric effect in 1905 and of the embedding of light in cosmology through general relativity in 1915, and the discovery of the cosmic microwave background by Penzias and Wilson in 1965,



Considering that the celebration of the anniversaries of these discoveries in 2015 would provide an important opportunity to highlight the continuous nature of scientific discovery in different contexts, with particular emphasis on promoting science education among young people and women, especially in developing countries,

Noting that at its 2013 substantive session, the Economic and Social Council organized its work for the annual ministerial review under the theme “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

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

1. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the present initiative by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 190th session;

2. *Decides* to declare 2015 the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to take appropriate steps to organize the activities of the International Year and to develop necessary proposals on activities at all levels to support Member States in the implementation of the Year;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the International Council for Science and other relevant non-governmental organizations, and also invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to keep the General Assembly informed of progress made in this regard;

5. *Stresses* that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions for this specific purpose;

6. *Encourages* all States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year to promote actions at all levels, including through international cooperation, and to increase awareness among the public of the importance of light science, optics and light-based technologies and of promoting widespread access to new knowledge and related activities;

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