



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 November 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 28

Social development

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled:

“Social development:

“(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

“(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family;

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered proposals and took action on the item at its 7th, 9th, 11th and 15th meetings, on 5, 12, 15 and 18 November. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.¹ Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 6th meetings, on 30 September and on 1, 4 and 7 October.²

3. The Committee, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 30 September, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for its seventy-sixth session and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, convened a virtual informal meeting to hear introductory statements and hold

¹ [A/C.3/76/SR.7](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.9](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.11](#) and [A/C.3/76/SR.15](#).

² See [A/C.3/76/SR.1](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.2](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.3](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.4](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.5](#) and [A/C.3/76/SR.6](#). Pursuant to the organization of work adopted at the 1st meeting, on 30 September, official statements received by the Secretariat for posting on eStatements can be accessed at the following link: <https://journal.un.org/>.



interactive dialogues on the item. The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in the annex to the present document.

4. Also pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, and in lieu of the holding of in-person general discussions of agenda items allocated to the Third Committee, official statements received by the Secretariat under the item can be accessed through the Third Committee Place of the e-deleGATE portal.

5. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly ([A/76/181](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes ([A/76/61-E/2021/4](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([A/76/137](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing ([A/76/156](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration through social inclusion ([A/76/184](#));

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development ([A/76/209](#));

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth ([A/76/210](#));

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on disability inclusion in the United Nations system ([A/76/265](#));

(i) Note by the Secretariat on social development challenges faced by persons with albinism ([A/76/188](#));

(j) Note by the Secretariat on the world social situation 2021: rural development for an inclusive future ([A/76/116](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.8](#)

6. At its 7th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Persons with albinism” ([A/C.3/76/L.8](#)), which was submitted by Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania. Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, the Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, France, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, also on behalf of Malawi, made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.8](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.15/Rev.1](#)

9. At its 7th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers” ([A/C.3/76/L.15/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Côte d’Ivoire, Czechia, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Monaco, Mongolia, Panama, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain and Thailand. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil made a statement.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.15/Rev.1](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution II).

12. Before the adoption, the representative of Japan made a statement.

C. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.20/Rev.1](#)

13. At its 11th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and their families” ([A/C.3/76/L.20/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Brazil, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, France, Italy, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine and Vanuatu.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain, also on behalf of Brazil and Qatar, made a statement and orally revised the fifth preambular paragraph and deleted operative paragraph 15 of the draft resolution.

15. Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Ireland, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta,

Mongolia, Morocco, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.20/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 51, draft resolution III).

17. Before the adoption, the representatives of the United States of America, Japan and New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) made statements.

18. After the adoption, the representatives of the Russian Federation, Libya and Senegal, as well as the observer for the Holy See, made statements.

D. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.12/Rev.1](#)

19. At its 15th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)” ([A/C.3/76/L.12/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Ecuador and Madagascar (on behalf of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

20. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

21. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Madagascar, on behalf of the Group of African States, made a statement.

22. Also at the 15th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.12/Rev.1](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution IV).

23. After the adoption, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Israel and Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), as well as the observer for the Holy See, made statements.

E. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.19/Rev.1](#)

24. At its 11th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly” ([A/C.3/76/L.19/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Kazakhstan.

25. At the same meeting, the representative of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.19/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 182 to 2 (see para. 51, draft resolution V). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

27. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

28. After the vote, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in explanation of vote.

F. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.16](#)

29. At its 7th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Cooperatives in social development" ([A/C.3/76/L.16](#)), which was submitted by the Central African Republic and Mongolia. Subsequently, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia,

South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

30. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia made a statement.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.16](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution VI).

G. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.13/Rev.1](#)

32. At its 9th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Promoting social integration through social inclusion” ([A/C.3/76/L.13/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, the Congo, Croatia, Czechia, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

33. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru made a statement.

34. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.13/Rev.1](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution VII).

35. After the adoption, the representative of the Egypt made a statement.

H. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1](#)

36. At its 11th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Policies and programmes involving youth” ([A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Panama, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Ukraine. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, the Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan,

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

37. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1](#).

38. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Senegal, also on behalf of Cabo Verde, Kazakhstan and Portugal, made a statement.

39. Also at the 11th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution VIII).

40. Before the adoption, the representatives of Indonesia and the United States of America made statements.

41. After the adoption, the representatives of the Russian Federation, Egypt, Argentina, Malaysia, Bahrain (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), the Dominican Republic (also on behalf of Colombia, Costa Rica, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, South Africa and Tunisia), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and Algeria, as well as the observer for the Holy See, made statements.

I. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.17/Rev.1](#)

42. At its 11th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" ([A/C.3/76/L.17/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Turkey and the United States of America. Subsequently, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

43. At the same meeting, the representative of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

44. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.17/Rev.1](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution IX).

45. After the adoption, the representatives of Argentina and the Russian Federation made statements.

J. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.18/Rev.1](#)

46. At its 11th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" ([A/C.3/76/L.18/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

47. At the same meeting, the representative of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

48. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.18/Rev.1](#) (see para. 51, draft resolution X).

49. Before the adoption, the representatives of Uruguay and the United States of America made statements.

50. After the adoption, the representatives of Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) made statements.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

51. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Persons with albinism**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁶ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁷

Reaffirming also the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development⁸ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,⁹ and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,¹⁰

Recalling its resolution [74/123](#) of 18 December 2019 and its previous resolutions on persons with albinism,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions [23/13](#) of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism¹¹ and [24/33](#) of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism,¹² as well as resolutions [28/6](#) of 26 March 2015¹³ and [37/5](#) of 22 March 2018 pertaining to the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism,

Recalling further its resolution [69/170](#) of 18 December 2014, by which the General Assembly decided to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day, with effect from 2015,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism¹⁴ and the recommendations contained therein,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁸ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁹ Resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

¹⁰ [A/37/351/Add.1](#) and [A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1](#), annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

¹¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹² *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A (A/68/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

¹³ *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/70/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹⁴ [A/76/188](#).

Recalling the report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,¹⁵ and recalling also all the reports of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism to the General Assembly and to the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolutions 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism and 373 of 22 May 2017 on the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021), and the Pan-African Parliament resolution on persons with albinism in Africa of 18 May 2018,

Expressing grave concern at all attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children,

Welcoming the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism and public campaigns to raise awareness,

Expressing concern that persons with albinism are disproportionately affected by poverty, owing to the discrimination and marginalization they face, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for resources to develop and implement programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

Expressing concern also that women and girls with albinism may face multiple forms of discrimination, and a higher risk of sexual abuse, especially in communities where they are falsely perceived to have the power to cure HIV and AIDS, including being targets of witchcraft-related attacks,

Recognizing that persons with albinism continue to face environmental, structural and attitudinal barriers that prevent their full participation in economic, social, political and cultural life,

Recognizing also the need to address the root causes of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly the interrelated factors, including the mythologization of albinism and the related lack of understanding of the scientific bases of the condition, poverty, discrimination and economic and social marginalization, witchcraft practices and other aggravating factors, which contribute to the ongoing outbreaks of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly on the African continent,

Recognizing further that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁶ will contribute, inter alia, to the promotion of social inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with albinism, and reaffirming that Member States, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including persons with albinism, without discrimination of any kind,

Expressing concern about the continuing lack of information and disaggregated data on the status of persons with albinism, which are important to inform appropriate policy responses by Member States and the United Nations system, while acknowledging that some Member States have examples of good practices of collecting disaggregated data on persons with albinism,

¹⁵ [A/HRC/24/57](#).

¹⁶ Resolution [70/1](#).

Recognizing that access to full and productive employment and decent work is an important aspect of participation in social and economic life,

Reaffirming the need for the participation of persons with albinism in development efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard stressing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons with albinism,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the human rights of all persons, including persons with albinism, including the rights to life, liberty, security of person, education, work, an adequate standard of living and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt, if necessary, national action plans and legislation, as appropriate, on the rights of persons with albinism, in conformity with their international human rights obligations and commitments, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to address the root causes of discrimination and violence against persons with albinism, including through awareness-raising campaigns, the dissemination of accurate information on albinism and other measures, such as the integration of albinism into education curricula, and to collaborate with organizations representing persons with albinism, including civil society organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to drive public awareness on albinism;

4. *Further encourages* Member States to end impunity for violence against persons with albinism, including sexual and gender-based violence, by amending laws, where applicable, and by bringing perpetrators to justice;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to work to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into crimes and attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that victims, survivors and family members have access to appropriate remedies, as well as accessible therapy and psychosocial, socioeconomic, legal and medical support, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* Member States to take effective steps to promote regional cooperation for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of cross-border crimes affecting persons with albinism, notably trafficking of persons, children and body parts;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in support of measures to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with albinism, including strengthening the capacity of their health-care systems to provide affordable dermatological and ophthalmological services;

8. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, compile and disseminate disaggregated data on persons with albinism, where applicable, to identify patterns of discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of their status;

9. *Encourages* Member States to develop, if necessary, policies and measures to address the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, who may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably

in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their participation in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to support the participation of persons with albinism in social, economic, political, civil and cultural life, as well as their consultation and active involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, campaigns and training programmes, and further urges Member States to implement, if necessary, national measures to ensure that persons with albinism are not left behind, recognizing that persons with albinism are often disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and to commit to working towards the social integration of persons with albinism;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Social development”, on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and encourages the Secretary-General to collect information from Member States and all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the report;

12. *Decides*, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons with albinism, to consider the issue of persons with albinism at its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Social development”.

Draft resolution II

Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Noting that the year 2021 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme since its commencement in January 1971 and also marks the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers,

Recalling its resolution [73/140](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Acknowledging the important role volunteers have played and continue to play in their response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, particularly in exercising an active role in national responses and recovery and in addressing the consequences of COVID-19 and mitigating its socioeconomic impacts, including as health workers and other front-line essential workers,

Recognizing the universal desire of people to contribute through volunteering and the importance of ensuring the safety and security of volunteers through adequate insurance, as well as physical and mental health support,

Recognizing also that young persons play a major role in volunteering worldwide, and in that regard reaffirming the importance of involving youth and both youth-led and youth-focused organizations in all matters of concern to them, including within the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ creates an unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by and between Governments, communities, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

Welcoming the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries, as well as resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it recognizes volunteerism as a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming also the publication by the United Nations Volunteers programme of the report entitled *2022 State of the World's Volunteerism Report: Building Equal and Inclusive Societies*, which presents new evidence on the relationship between volunteers and the State and illustrates how emerging models of volunteering can help address the needs of communities in a more inclusive and responsive manner,

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

² Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, noting the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and acknowledging the important role of civil society in facilitating volunteering,

Acknowledging also that, as volunteering practices evolve, including online and digital volunteering, there is a need to understand how they shape the participation of volunteers and to leave no one behind by facilitating access, and stressing in this regard the need to close all digital divides, which have been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills and awareness and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ which aims for all human beings to fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment and notes the progress made by stakeholders under the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Recalls* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;

3. *Recognizes* the critical contributions of volunteers in this regard, and commends the contributions from national and international volunteers for their indispensable interaction with local populations in disaster risk reduction and recovery, most recently evidenced by their performance in the aftermath of natural disasters, including those aggravated by climate change in many parts of the world;

4. *Commends* the increasing link between volunteerism and sport, which, through the invaluable contributions of national and international volunteers to the preparation and delivery of major sports events, inter alia, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, contributes to the promotion of the ideal of peace and inclusive society;

5. *Also commends* the measurement of the scale and scope of volunteering on a national level and the integration of volunteerism into national youth policies and strategies, disaster preparedness and response strategies, as well as national development plans, and encourages Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks or equivalent planning frameworks;

6. *Encourages* Member States to support volunteer action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the integration of volunteerism into sector priorities and national development strategies, plans and

³ A/76/137.

policies, and to invest in volunteers and volunteering as part of national capacities to promote inclusion, strengthen participation and foster innovation and to strengthen evidence on the quality of participation through volunteering under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with other stakeholders;

7. *Encourages* the meaningful participation and integration of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, into volunteer-involving programmes and projects, with the provision of the appropriate means to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

8. *Commends* the Member States that highlighted the contributions of volunteering to the Sustainable Development Goals in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, and encourages all Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer-involving and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, in supporting such efforts and promoting a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results, to include information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in future voluntary national reviews and engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Goals at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider people's engagement;

9. *Encourages* all Member States to invest in measuring the scale and contribution of people's voluntary efforts, in line with the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians standard on volunteer work and the International Labour Organization *Volunteer Work Measurement Guide*, and to collect and utilize high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to support and integrate volunteerism into national strategies and to measure its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Requests* United Nations entities, as well as United Nations country teams, to reflect the distinct contributions of volunteering in Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and country programme documents, in line with resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

11. *Recalls* the call to action on "Volunteering in the decade of action", welcomes the contribution of volunteers to the global efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, and emphasizes the key role of volunteers in responding to, rebuilding and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in the implementation of the health-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, universal health coverage, recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on the poor and most vulnerable, with repercussions on health and development gains;

12. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations, including from civil society, to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

13. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Volunteers programme in supporting the integration of volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by sharing relevant knowledge and experiences, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to share their continued efforts to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda through the global Knowledge Portal on

Volunteerism hosted by the United Nations Volunteers programme, including policies, strategies, research and evidence and good practices on volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Also recognizes* the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers as the resource enabling the United Nations Volunteers programme to develop initiatives that embed the values of volunteerism in the work of Governments and the United Nations system, and encourages Member States in a position to do so to enhance their contributions to the Fund, thereby ensuring continuing activities;

15. *Further recognizes* the role of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support online volunteering, including United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms;

16. *Encourages* Member States and development partners to continue to share knowledge and scale up ways to address barriers to volunteering for all, including persons in vulnerable situations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Social development".

Draft resolution III

Addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and their families

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a wide, far-reaching, and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, with the endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, including persons living with a rare disease,

Recognizing the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons, including the estimated 300 million persons living with a rare disease worldwide, many of whom are children, by ensuring equal opportunities to achieve their optimal potential development and to fully, equally and meaningfully participate in society,

Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one’s family, including adequate food, safe drinking water, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, with particular attention to the alarming situation of millions of people for whom access to health-care services and medicines remains a distant goal, owing to a number of different barriers, in particular people who are in vulnerable situations, including those in developing countries,

Recognizing that some persons living with a rare disease have disabilities and impairments, which may have a greater impact on their health, and that they may also face attitudinal and environmental barriers, which may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

Reaffirming that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and acknowledging the reciprocal benefits between the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and the achievement of all other Goals,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of equity, social justice and social protection mechanisms as well as the elimination of the root causes of discrimination and stigma in health-care settings to ensure universal and equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship for all people, particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including those living with a rare disease,

Recognizing also that persons living with a rare disease and their families should have access to social protection and assistance that enables them to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of their rights and to ensure a safe and supportive family environment,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Recalling the outcomes of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 23 September 2019, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,⁶ including the commitment therein to strengthen efforts to address rare diseases as part of universal health coverage,

Deeply concerned that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic perpetuates and exacerbates existing inequalities, and that those disproportionately at risk are women and girls and persons in vulnerable situations, recognizing the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of the pandemic, including the impact on access to essential health services, recognizing also the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the health, social and economic situation of persons living with a rare disease,

Expressing concern that persons living with a rare disease and their families can be at greater risk of being disproportionately affected by stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, and that one of the major barriers to improving the inclusion and participation of persons living with a rare disease and their families in society is the lack of knowledge and expertise in the field and a lack of awareness regarding the issue,

Underscoring the need to address the root causes of inequality and discrimination faced by persons living with a rare disease and their families, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for policies and programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

Recognizing that persons living with a rare disease and their families may be psychologically, socially and economically vulnerable throughout their life course, facing specific challenges in several areas, including but not limited to health, education, employment and leisure,

Reaffirming that inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities without discrimination are essential for the full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life, and recognizing that, in particular, children living with a rare disease may face multiple challenges in accessing quality education owing to the inaccessibility of facilities and non-adapted teaching methods, among others,

Reaffirming also that access to full and productive employment and decent work is also an important aspect of full, equal and meaningful participation in society and economic life, and that persons living with a rare disease and their families face challenges in access to, retention of and return to employment,

Reaffirming further the need to achieve gender equality and to empower women and girls, and concerned by the fact that women and girls living with a rare disease face more discrimination and barriers in accessing health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and education, as well as fully, equally and meaningfully participating in public life, and that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work when a member of their household or family lives with a rare disease, and that women face more barriers in accessing decent work,

Deeply concerned that persons living with a rare disease, especially women and children, often face barriers in accessing water and sanitation facilities that are accessible and appropriate to their needs, which has an impact on their ability to participate fully in all aspects of life, including their access to education, and for

⁶ Resolution 74/2.

women to live independently and ensure their access to employment, which is particularly concerning in situations of homelessness,

Recognizing the need to foster innovation and the positive contribution that innovation can make in promoting social cohesion, reducing inequalities and expanding opportunities for all, including persons living with a rare disease and the most vulnerable people, and in that regard recognizing the need to support, streamline and increase attention to research on rare diseases,

Expressing concern at the lack of disaggregated data, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, on persons living with a rare disease, which would help to identify and address the barriers faced in exercising their human rights,

Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations play in collecting, analysing and disseminating the limited existing information on the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and in providing support services to them and advocating on their behalf for better lives,

Recognizing also the need for the participation of persons living with a rare disease in civil, political, social, economic and cultural life, and that the effective and meaningful participation of persons living with a rare disease in decision-making, including through their representative organizations, can strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons living with a rare disease,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen health systems, notably in terms of primary health care, in order to provide universal access to a wide range of health-care services that are safe, of quality, accessible, available and affordable, timely, and clinically and financially integrated, which will help to empower persons living with a rare disease in addressing their physical and mental health needs to realize their human rights, including their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to enhance health equity and equality, end discrimination and stigma, eliminate gaps in coverage and create a more inclusive society;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt gender-sensitive national strategies, action plans and legislation, to contribute to the well-being of persons living with a rare disease and their families, including on the protection and enjoyment of their human rights, consistent with their obligations under international law;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to address the root causes of all forms of discrimination against persons living with a rare disease, including through awareness-raising, the dissemination of accurate information on rare diseases and other measures, as appropriate;

4. *Emphasizes* the important role of cultural, family, ethical and religious factors, including the key role played by religious leaders in the treatment, care and support of persons living with a rare disease;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on persons living with a rare disease, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, where applicable, to identify discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of the status of persons living with a rare disease;

6. *Encourages* Member States to foster the creation of networks of experts and multidisciplinary specialized expert hubs, inter alia, for rare diseases and to increase support for research, by strengthening international collaboration and

coordination of research efforts and the sharing of data, while respecting its protection and privacy;

7. *Urges* Member States to implement, as appropriate, national measures to ensure that persons living with a rare disease are not left behind, recognizing that persons living with a rare disease are often disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and that they may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in society, and to commit to working towards the social integration and physical and mental well-being of persons living with a rare disease and their families and caregivers without any discrimination;

8. *Further urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in consultation with persons living with a rare disease and their families, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes, to share experiences and best practices with the aim of fulfilling the rights of all persons living with a rare disease, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ is inclusive of and accessible to persons living with a rare disease;

9. *Affirms* that all persons, including those living with a rare disease, and especially children, have the right to education and lifelong learning opportunities on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and urges Member States to ensure full and equal access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for persons living with a rare disease on an equal basis with others;

10. *Urges* Member States to implement effective programmes to promote mental health and psychosocial support for persons living with a rare disease, and to promote policies and programmes that enhance the well-being of their families and caregivers;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all persons, including those persons living with a rare disease all throughout the life course, and in this regard re-emphasizes the resolve:

(a) To progressively cover persons living with a rare disease with quality essential health products, health services and quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines, diagnostics, and health technologies, with a view to covering all persons living with a rare disease by 2030;

(b) To stop the rise and reverse the trend of catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure by providing measures to ensure financial risk protection and eliminate impoverishment due to health-related expenses by 2030, with special emphasis on persons living with a rare disease;

12. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality care facilities for children and other dependants living with a rare disease and measures promoting the equal sharing of household responsibilities between adult members of the household, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work when a member of the family lives with a rare disease, and fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in this regard;

13. *Also encourages* Member States to promote access to full and productive employment and decent work, along with appropriate measures for financial inclusion

⁷ Resolution 70/1.

for persons living with a rare disease and their families by addressing challenges in access to, retention of and return to employment, inter alia, through the creation of suitable working conditions for persons living with a rare disease and their families, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as sick leave and caregiver's leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

14. *Further encourages* Member States to eliminate barriers faced by persons living with a rare disease and their families in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene, including physical, institutional, social and attitudinal barriers, and to promote appropriate measures in cities and other human settlements that facilitate such access for persons living with a rare disease and their families, on an equal basis with others, in both rural and urban areas;

15. *Decides*, considering the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons living with a rare disease, to consider the issue of persons living with a rare disease at its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled "Social development".

Draft resolution IV

Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, and their outcomes,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session² constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all with people at the centre, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ which, inter alia, recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly recognized to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and to implement social protection systems and measures for all, including floors for all, and affirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴ which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/7](#) of 18 June 2020, entitled, “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”, and the commitments thereto,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”,⁵ in which he encouraged Member States to develop comprehensive intersectoral national strategies and specific policy interventions to address homelessness, build broad-based partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including with civil society, to prevent people from falling into homelessness, and to combat stereotypes and discrimination against people experiencing homelessness,

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

³ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁵ [E/CN.5/2020/3](#).

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement⁶ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁷ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁸ and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,⁹ as each document contributes to the improvement of the situation of homelessness and the promotion of the right of individuals to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination,

Recalling the importance of the full realization of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023), as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development¹⁰ and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹¹ in which States parties recognized the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development,

Recalling further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹² which advances the full realization of the human rights of women, including the right to social security, and the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, in 1995,¹³ towards advancing the goals of gender equality, development and peace for all women and girls in the interest of all humanity,

Recalling the New Urban Agenda,¹⁴ which, inter alia, promotes cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing for all, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, including for persons with disability,

Noting the importance of aggregated and disaggregated data for formulating effective policies to address homelessness and the need to make concerted efforts to identify people experiencing homelessness, both temporarily and chronically,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2016/7 and 2016/8, of 2 June 2016, in which Governments were encouraged to continue to develop, improve, extend and implement inclusive, effective, fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures and in which it was acknowledged that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty, vulnerability and homelessness, and are therefore essential to end the situation of marginalization of persons experiencing and at risk of homelessness and help them to integrate into society,

Recognizing that addressing homelessness through affordable housing and other targeted policies and social protection systems for all assists Member States in realizing the right to adequate housing as part of their implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda,

⁶ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21. annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 71/1.

¹⁰ [A/57/304](#), annex.

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing*, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

Noting with concern that individuals and families can become homeless temporarily or for prolonged periods as a result of armed conflicts, natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, or pandemics, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and that climate change is predicted to increase the frequency, irregularity and intensity of sudden or slow-onset natural hazards, heightening the risk of disaster-related homelessness,

Concerned that the right to adequate housing is not realized for many throughout the world and that millions continue to live in substandard housing, or are experiencing homelessness, or are at immediate risk of homelessness,

Noting with concern that homelessness among adolescents and youth is a major concern in many countries, and that youth living in poverty experience additional deprivations to their standard of living, including lack of access to decent jobs, quality education and training and health, putting them at greater risk of bearing the negative economic consequences of shocks such as pandemics,

Mindful of the particular challenges faced by homeless women and girls, including gender-based violence and lack of access to adequate hygienic equipment and health facilities, and recognizing the need for gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and locally relevant measures to combat homelessness,

Recalling its resolution [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, and its resolution [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, which all call for multilateral and multisectoral approaches to address the global pandemic,

Recalling also its resolution [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, which identified the existing and potential impacts of coronavirus disease on women and girls and put a clear and comprehensive road map for addressing these impacts,

Noting that homelessness is not merely a lack of physical housing, but is often a disaffiliation process interrelated with poverty, lack of full and productive employment, decent work and access to infrastructure, as well as other socioeconomic issues that may constitute a loss of family, community and a sense of belonging, and, depending on national context, can be described as a condition where a person or household lacks safe habitable space, which may compromise their ability to enjoy social relations, and includes people living on the streets, in other open spaces or in buildings not intended for human habitation, people living in temporary accommodation or shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and, in accordance with national legislation, may include, among others, people living in severely inadequate accommodation without security of tenure and access to basic services,

Noting with concern that people, inter alia, women and girls, experiencing or at risk of homelessness are already in vulnerable situations and disproportionately affected by serious health concerns, which further increase their vulnerability to global pandemics such as COVID-19, recognizing that this is influenced by a lack of housing and housing inadequacy, nutritious food, a lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation and health-care services, as well as inequalities and poverty, particularly in the wake of lockdowns,

Stressing the urgent need to build on COVID-19 recovery efforts and to accelerate action at all levels and by all stakeholders to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizing the need for concerted action pursuant to all relevant major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and their outcomes, including the World Summit for Social

Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹⁵ and the New Urban Agenda,

1. *Notes with concern* that homelessness is a global problem, affecting people of different ages and with diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds, in both developed and developing countries, while acknowledging the lack of up-to-date data on the number of persons suffering from homelessness, with the last estimation carried out by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in 2005, in which it estimated that 100 million persons were experiencing homelessness, and that 1.6 billion people lived in inadequate housing conditions, with about 15 million persons forcefully evicted every year;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, while recognizing that homelessness constitutes an affront to human dignity and may be an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to address it;

3. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular as they affect people experiencing and at risk of homelessness and other people in vulnerable situations, is crucial for the advancement of global sustainable development;

4. *Urges* Member States to consider people experiencing homelessness in designing, implementing, creating and evaluating policies, programmes and strategies for full, equal, meaningful, effective, constructive and sustainable participation in society and access to affordable, stable, safe and adequate housing, as part of the human right to an adequate standard of living, and that those efforts are compliant with their applicable international human rights obligations as well as oriented towards achieving sustainable development goals and fulfilling the commitment of leaving no one behind;

5. *Stresses* that the responsibility for developing integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective policies and programmes affecting people experiencing homelessness, as well as coherent multisectoral efforts globally and evaluating this issue regularly as part of follow-up action lies foremost with Member States and local governments, in consultation, as appropriate, with individuals and families with a lived experience, civil society organizations, especially those currently serving the identified demographic, and other relevant stakeholders;

6. *Welcomes* the implementation of inclusive, social and public housing programmes, and encourages Member States to continue to enable all persons in vulnerable situations to access adequate housing by constructing, maintaining and managing housing programmes at affordable prices and costs, as well as providing income subsidies, as a means to prevent homelessness and informal housing, and to share the best practices;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to collect disaggregated data on demographics related to homelessness and establish categories of homelessness, accompanying the existing measurement tools, and encourages Member States to harmonize the measurement and collection of data on homelessness to enable national and global policymaking;

8. *Encourages* national and local governments to improve access to affordable housing through integrated housing policies and social protection measures, including social protection on both the demand and the supply sides, including by addressing legal and policy barriers to equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing, including for women of all ages and women-headed

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

households, and providing access to credit facilities, as well as through protection against unlawful eviction, the provision of adequate emergency and temporary shelter and services and security of tenancy and support for the development of affordable housing, which is especially important for low-income households;

9. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication requires that Member States implement and strengthen nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, ensuring access thereto for the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and those in informal employment, in an effort to prevent and address homelessness;

10. *Recognizes* that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by the negative impact of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, which have exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities for people experiencing homelessness, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, and stresses the need to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, including through the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living is promoted and respected;

11. *Urges* Member States to effectively address the structural and circumstantial drivers of homelessness, including inequalities, poverty, a loss of housing and livelihood, a lack of decent job opportunities, lack of access to affordable housing, lack of social protection, lack of access to land, credit or financing, and high costs of energy or health care, as well as lack of financial and legal literacy, through appropriate means;

12. *Emphasizes* the need for accessible, publicly available and affordable health-care services in order to address specific medical needs of people experiencing homelessness, who are often at risk of contracting communicable diseases such as COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS;

13. *Recognizes* the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of all, specifically people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including scaling up of comprehensive and integrated psychosocial support services for the prevention and treatment of mental disorders and other mental health conditions, through psychosocial support, raising awareness and tackling stigma, promoting well-being, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;

14. *Urges* Member States to address all forms of violence including gender-based violence against women of all ages, children, and persons with disabilities especially the challenges faced by those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as negative social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practices;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational programmes, partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard the importance of targeted programmes throughout the life course to mitigate and address homelessness including through the provision of supportive services, assistance in locating housing, health-care services and mental health services, quality education and training, employment counselling, child care, food, and trauma services, as well as basic material necessities such as food and hygienic equipment, to people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, giving special attention to interventions with families, women and children who are at risk of violence, in order to break the cycle of intergenerational homelessness and poverty;

16. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders to close digital divides and promote digital inclusion, particularly of people experiencing homelessness, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills, including media and information literacy, and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations;

17. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to remove obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing, through increased availability of adequate housing, resources and basic services in order to promote the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹⁶

18. *Also urges* Member States to address legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers, irrespective of geographic location, that limit people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, in all its forms, from full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and input at all levels, while enabling the capacities, resources, information, technology, support, space and skills needed to empower and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of the poor, female-headed households and others in vulnerable situations;

19. *Encourages* Member States to increase the pool of affordable housing with social supports, particularly in urban areas, upgrade slums and take steps to end arbitrary evictions and the commodification of housing, through such actions as taxing empty units, requiring a certain percentage of new housing construction to include affordable housing, providing access to legal remedies, promoting housing cooperatives, promoting caps on rental costs and moderating housing costs;

20. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and similar situations, that people experiencing homelessness have access to personal protective equipment, health care services, medical supplies, medicines, vaccines and testing, the provision of sufficient safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and access to easily comprehended information about the situation, enabling people experiencing homelessness to follow mandated health recommendations without fear of persecution or personal risk;

21. *Encourages* close collaboration, broad-based partnership at all levels and the sharing of good practices between Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to educate, to raise awareness, to prevent people from falling into homelessness, to support those experiencing homelessness, to develop long-term sustainable solutions to end homelessness, and to support the empowerment of all persons in vulnerable situations, including those experiencing homelessness;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, to submit a report to the General Assembly, at its seventy-eighth session, on the progress that has been achieved and challenges that remain in the implementation of inclusive social development policies and programmes to address homelessness, including through recommendations for possible indicators on social protection and access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing in the aftermath of COVID-19.

¹⁶ Resolution 70/1.

Draft resolution V Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, including resolution [75/151](#) of 16 December 2020,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,² as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Welcoming the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels, and expressing its deep concern that, more than 20 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain,

Welcoming also the adoption, in its entirety, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ in which it is recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Welcoming further the convening in New York on 24 and 25 September 2019 of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly, and its political declaration,⁴ aiming to follow up and comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the adoption of the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 23 September 2019, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,⁵

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities within and among countries, raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable and inclusive social development and the sustainable management of natural resources,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² Resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

³ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁴ Resolution [74/4](#), annex.

⁵ Resolution [74/2](#).

integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission, given its mandates and experience in promoting people-centred inclusive development, will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Council in order to contribute to its work,⁶ including by offering inputs regarding the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a holistic and inclusive manner,

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission for Social Development will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work, and that the priority theme for the 2021 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”,

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”,⁷

Reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development⁸ also informs the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant instruments, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹ Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union, and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,¹⁰ and reaffirming also the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed, and noting in this regard that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important

⁶ Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/6, para. 3.

⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/76/3)*, chap. VI, sect. E.

⁸ Resolution 41/128, annex.

⁹ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁰ A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

role to play in achieving the objective of social protection and elimination of inequalities, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

Recognizing that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress and to leave no one behind,

Stressing the need to close all digital divides, which have been aggravated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills and awareness and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations, and noting the efforts to help to bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty persist in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that the extent and manifestations thereof, such as hunger and malnutrition, vulnerability to trafficking in persons, forced and child labour, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are heightened in developing countries and particularly severe in least developed countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Stressing the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets,

Stressing also the importance of establishing a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and respect their territorial integrity and political independence, and refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Welcoming the second edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, held virtually in March 2021 under the theme “Shaping Africa’s new normal: recovering stronger, rebuilding better”, at which the need to prioritize institution-building in conflict-affected countries was emphasized, particularly in view of the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recognizing that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, including reduction of inequalities, and that they further present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity,

Recognizing also that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,¹¹ the World Programme of Action for Youth,¹² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹³ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹⁴ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁵

Welcoming the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), which urges Member States to promote the social development of people of African descent, particularly women and girls, by eradicating any form of discrimination, ensuring access to quality education and eliminating challenges and specific risks with regard to health,

Reaffirming the commitment to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social protection and social security, and noting the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Reaffirming also the efforts of Governments to achieve all health-related Sustainable Development Goal targets, in particular Goal 3 of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all throughout the life course, by integrating those aims into their national plans and policies, as well as the significant progress made in increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality and combating communicable diseases,

Recognizing that action to achieve universal health coverage by 2030 is inadequate and that the level of progress and investment to date is insufficient to meet target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the world has yet to fulfil its promise of implementing, at all levels, measures to address the health needs of all,

Recalling the outcome of the World Health Assembly held in May 2019, the agreement to accelerate and scale up action to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases, the agreement on a common approach to antimicrobial resistance, the adoption of a new global strategy on health, the environment and climate change, and the adoption by the Assembly of the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, which will go into effect on 1 January 2022,

Reaffirming the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda, including to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Noting with concern that, despite the progress achieved, at least half of the world's population lacks access to essential health services, more than 800 million people bear the burden of catastrophic spending of at least 10 per cent of their household income on health care and out-of-pocket expenses drive almost 100 million people into poverty each year,

Reaffirming education for sustainable development as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development, as outlined in the Aichi-Nagoya

¹¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹² Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁴ Resolution 61/295, annex.

¹⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development,¹⁶ and as an integral element of the Sustainable Development Goal on quality education and a key enabler of all the other Goals, and welcoming the increased international recognition of education for sustainable development in quality education and lifelong learning,

Acknowledging the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognizing the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including through scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and by upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and increasing the percentage of qualified teachers in developing countries, including through international cooperation, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States,

Reiterating the contribution of education to eradicating poverty in all forms and dimensions by providing people with knowledge and skills, which increases productivity and income and helps in reducing inequality within countries,

Acknowledging the importance of adopting science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies to help to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration and the importance of scaling up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhancing technical, vocational and tertiary education, distance education and training and of ensuring equal access for all women and girls and encouraging their participation therein,

Welcoming the adoption of resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, and [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”,

Welcoming also the convening on 1 December 2020 of a joint informal high-level meeting of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit on Social Development, under the theme “Re-setting inclusive social policies for resilience to build back better from COVID-19 crisis: addressing inequalities in access to basic services and infrastructure”,

Concerned that the current COVID-19 crisis is likely to reverse decades of progress in social development, leaving more people behind and that it has also had a negative impact on the abilities of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that at this critical moment in the decade of action to deliver the Goals by 2030 the visions, principles and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development remain valid and are central to addressing emerging global challenges, and recalling that social policies have a key role to play in addressing the immediate effects of crises,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply chains and travel, and

¹⁶ [A/70/228](#), annex.

agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, is having a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to health care, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations and in countries in special situations and those countries most affected, and is making the prospect of achieving all Sustainable Development Goals more difficult, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

Stressing that the encouragement and development of international cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields serve the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, bearing in mind that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁷
2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular to promote equality and social justice, eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all, and recognizes that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually reinforcing;
3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced, holistic and integrated manner;
4. *Recognizes* that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, and encourages Member States to develop comprehensive, integrated and coherent poverty eradication strategies that effectively address the structural causes of poverty and inequality with an emphasis on job-rich growth; address and meet the basic human needs of people living in poverty; ensure their access to quality education, nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and other public social services, access to employment and decent work for all, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology and knowledge; and ensure their participation in decision-making on social and economic development policies and programmes in this regard;
5. *Expresses deep concern* that the global goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030 is slipping from our reach, and recognizes that the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated it, increasing the number of people living in poverty by up to 124 million, causing the extreme poverty rate to rise for the first time in a generation, especially low- and middle-income countries, and, inter alia, among women and girls and persons with disabilities;
6. *Stresses* the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, including extreme poverty, with enhanced international support and strengthened global partnerships, and notes the need for countries, the United Nations development system and all relevant stakeholders to

¹⁷ A/76/181.

ensure and promote a multidimensional coordinated approach in their work and efforts to eradicate poverty;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and gender-responsive social protection programmes;

8. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,¹⁸ the 2005 World Summit, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in its Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,¹⁹ the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, have reinforced the priority and urgency of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions within the United Nations development agenda;

9. *Recognizes* the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters, the lack of the necessary technology and armed conflicts, and also recognizes that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting the African Union's development framework, Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, which is the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development²⁰ and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

11. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

12. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, quality education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities,

¹⁸ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁹ Resolution 63/239, annex.

²⁰ A/57/304, annex.

noting the role of sports in this regard, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

13. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity and inclusion in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

14. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;

15. *Stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries, that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels and the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the reduction of inequalities, the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and for addressing the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, and in this regard also stresses the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

16. *Acknowledges* that inequalities persist within and among countries, posing significant challenges to social cohesion, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty, the promotion of prosperity, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality within and among countries are fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all, and that this requires collective and transformative efforts to leave no one behind and put the furthest behind first, and adapt institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of inequality and poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

17. *Urges* Member States to strengthen social policies, as appropriate, paying particular attention to the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized social groups, inter alia, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and other persons in vulnerable situations, as well as to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, and discrimination, including xenophobia, against them, to ensure that these groups are not left behind, and recognizes that violence increases the challenges faced by States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration;

18. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, poverty and disease,

to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners and to improving the access of women to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers and allocating adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including in the workplace, inter alia, by addressing wage inequality, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, reconciliation of work and private life for both men and women, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

19. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda;

20. *Reaffirms* the right to food and acknowledges the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture, and, recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing inequality in access to food and nutrition, calls upon Governments to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

21. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to establish nationally appropriate social protection that supports labour market participation and addresses and reduces inequality and social exclusion, and social protection systems and floors, including through streamlining fragmented social protection systems/programmes, ensuring that such programmes are gender-responsive and disability-sensitive, and progressively extend their coverage to all people throughout their life cycle, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization, upon request, to support government efforts to strengthen social protection strategies and policies on extending social protection and social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

22. *Stresses* the need to address challenges faced by those working in informal or vulnerable jobs, by investing in the creation of more decent work opportunities, including providing access to decent jobs in the formal sector in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy, and enhancing the productive capacities of people, and strengthen labour institutions and employment and labour-market policies, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country and by promoting close partnerships with relevant stakeholders;

23. *Urges* Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-

making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

24. *Also urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work and to increase the prospects for integrating youth into the sustainable labour market, and through increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

25. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

26. *Reaffirms* the New Urban Agenda,²¹ which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air energy, air quality and livelihoods;

27. *Recognizes* that the negative effects of climate change and environmental disasters have differential impacts, with people in vulnerable situations, poor and rural communities and low-income countries being disproportionately exposed to floods, droughts and other natural disasters, and that they have a lower capacity and assets to recover from such external shocks, and expresses concern that climate change may cause high and volatile food and commodity prices and hit them hardest;

28. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws with regard to labour relations and working conditions of migrant workers, inter alia,

²¹ Resolution 71/256, annex.

those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

29. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations, the public sector and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors within countries are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the role of the public and private sectors as employers and enablers for the effective generation of new investments, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including through partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

30. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space and leadership of national Governments for implementing policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular in the areas of human rights, social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies, by, among other things, providing debt relief within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

31. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, applicable laws and international principles and standards, to operate transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

32. *Reaffirms* the necessity of improving availability, affordability and efficiency of health products by increasing transparency of prices of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies across the value chain, including through improved regulations and building constructive engagement and a stronger partnership with relevant stakeholders, including industries, the private sector and civil society, in accordance with national and regional legal frameworks and contexts, to address the global concern about the high prices of some health products, and in this regard encourages the World Health Organization to continue its efforts to biennially convene the Fair Pricing Forum with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss the affordability and transparency of prices and costs relating to health products;

33. *Recognizes* that health is an investment in human capital and social and economic development, towards the full realization of human potential, and significantly contributes to the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity as well as the empowerment of all people;

34. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment in the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage to achieve universal health coverage, which implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally

determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on those who are marginalized;

35. *Reaffirms* that achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, is essential to eradicate poverty, and reduce inequality and achieve sustainable development for all;

36. *Acknowledges* that expanding health care is a challenge, as well as the rising cost of medications and health products is threatening the sustainability of health systems in many countries, and stresses the responsibility of States to ensure access to all, without discrimination of any kind, of medicines, in particular essential medicines, that are affordable, safe, effective and of quality;

37. *Expresses concern* at the global shortfall of 18 million health workers, primarily in low- and middle income countries, recognizes the need to train, build and retain a skilled health workforce, including nurses, midwives and community health workers, who are an important element of strong and resilient health systems, and also recognizes that increased investment in a more effective and socially accountable health workforce can unleash significant socioeconomic gains and contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality;

38. *Calls upon* States, at the international level, to take steps, individually and/or through international cooperation, in accordance with applicable international law, including international agreements, to ensure that their actions as members of international organizations take into due account the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and that the application of international agreements is supportive of public health policies that promote broad access to safe, effective and affordable medicines;

39. *Encourages* all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

40. *Calls upon* Member States to make greater investments and promote decent work in the health and social sectors, enable safe working environments and conditions, effective retention and equitable and broad distribution of the health workforce, and strengthen capacities to optimize the existing health workforce, including through expanding rural and community-based health education and training to contribute to the achievement of universal health coverage;

41. *Encourages* Governments to end all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons;

42. *Welcomes* the rapid expansion in school enrolment worldwide, with literacy rates rising steadily over the past 50 years to reach 68 per cent in 2016, and the improvement in the access to early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education and throughout the life course, and calls upon the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society;

43. *Recognizes* the limited access to and high rates of dropout from school and secondary education, the increased rates of exclusion from education with age and the existence of large disparities in school attendance and learning acquisition by region, wealth, sex, urban or rural residence and other factors such as indigenous identity or disability, underscoring the challenges ahead, and also recognizes that poverty may affect access to quality education at the secondary and tertiary levels;

44. *Also recognizes* that factors such as poverty, residing in a rural area or having a disability all too often prevent children and adolescents from accessing quality education, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels;

45. *Encourages* all States to measure progress in the realization of the right to education, such as by developing national indicators as an important tool for the realization of the right to education and for policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency;

46. *Encourages* States to increase investments and international cooperation to allow all girls and boys to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including by scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and to explore additional innovative mechanisms based on models combining public and private resources, while ensuring that all education providers give due respect to the right to education;

47. *Urges* States to support the efforts of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to realize progressively the right to education, including the progressive realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl through appropriate resources, including financial and technical resources, in support of country-led national education plans;

48. *Reaffirms* the right to education, and calls upon the international community to provide universal access to inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – as well as to promote the completion of primary and secondary education so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

49. *Recognizes* that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education and vocational training and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

50. *Urges* Member States to promote and respect women's right to education throughout the life course at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, and eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promote financial literacy and inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship, ensure that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships and adopt positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

51. *Underlines* that the pandemic has accelerated the pace of digital transformation and accentuated its central role in recovering better and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invites the United Nations system to continue to support Member States in their pursuit of socially just transitions towards sustainable development and facilitate international cooperation

in the field of digital technologies for developing countries, upon their request, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the common future of present and coming generations, and close the digital divides which are exacerbating existing inequalities globally especially during and after the pandemic;

52. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed and middle-income countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

53. *Underlines* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes its increased importance, different history and particularities, and stresses that it should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

54. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and the most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources, and that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse the mobilization of additional resources from other public and private sources, and notes that official development assistance providers have reaffirmed their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

55. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of official development assistance since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the official development assistance targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

56. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of

aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

57. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitment for Vaccines;

58. *Emphasizes* that a coordinated global response is critical to assisting countries in preserving or increasing social protection systems when facing the COVID-19 pandemic and as they recover from it, including by strengthening international solidarity, multilateralism, international cooperation and global partnerships among all stakeholders, in order to recover better to achieve the objectives of the World Summit and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while leaving no one behind, with an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

59. *Encourages* Governments to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all;

60. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

61. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

62. *Stresses* that the international community should support national commitments to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions with the goal to ensure that no one is left behind, and recognizes the need for greater international cooperation to further reduce inequality between and within countries and increase capacity-building support to countries with the most constrained resources to ensure that social expenditures meet certain targets;

63. *Reconfirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

64. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up to and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with

the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

65. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

66. *Further reaffirms* the mandate of the Commission for Social Development and that social development is a cross-cutting element in discussions surrounding the 2030 Agenda, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, civil society and relevant stakeholders to enhance their support for the high-level political forum on sustainable development as it builds upon the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission, while reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

67. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner, to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

68. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,²² to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

69. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and invites the Commission to emphasize the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

70. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue engaging with Member States to sustain and further strengthen the political momentum on health-related issues, including the realization of universal health coverage and, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, including regional organizations, to strengthen existing initiatives that are led and coordinated by the World Health Organization to provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, towards the achievement of universal health coverage and all health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;

71. *Calls upon* the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels throughout the life course – early childhood, primary,

²² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6 (E/2005/26)*, chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training – so that all people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

72. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Social development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”, with a particular focus on the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind, taking into consideration the multifaceted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, especially on social development, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

Draft resolution VI Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001, 58/131 of 22 December 2003, 60/132 of 16 December 2005, 62/128 of 18 December 2007, 64/136 of 18 December 2009, 65/184 of 21 December 2010, 66/123 of 19 December 2011, 68/133 of 18 December 2013, 70/128 of 17 December 2015, 72/143 of 19 December 2017 and 74/119 of 18 December 2019 concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of local communities and all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, whose inclusion strengthens economic and social development, and contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Recognizing also that, as cooperative enterprises often serve the socially excluded and vulnerable sectors of the population that traditional profit-driven businesses may not be best placed to address, they are therefore important for the support of socially inclusive policies that drive inclusive development, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing further that cooperatives and other social organizations can be instrumental in promoting a just transition while working on climate change adaptation and mitigation,

Reaffirming the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,¹ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² and noting the acknowledgement therein of the role of cooperatives in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in relation to financing for development,

Recognizing the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, including their five-year reviews, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting with appreciation the potential role of cooperative development in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples and rural communities,

Welcoming the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to showcase the role of agricultural cooperatives, including in improving food security and nutrition, particularly in rural areas, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving the agricultural productivity of farmers and facilitating access to markets, savings, credit, insurance and technology,

¹ Resolution 70/1.

² Resolution 69/313, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³
2. *Notes with appreciation* the celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives, in 2012;
3. *Encourages* all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to share best practices identified through activities implemented during the International Year of Cooperatives and to continue those activities, as appropriate;
4. *Recalls* the draft plan of action on cooperatives for 2012 and beyond, based on the outcome document of the expert group meeting held in Ulaanbaatar in 2011 for the promotion of cooperatives for sustainable socioeconomic development, to promote focused and effective follow-up to the activities of the International Year of Cooperatives, within existing resources;
5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to focus support on cooperatives as sustainable and successful business enterprises that contribute directly to decent employment generation, poverty and hunger eradication, education, social protection, including universal health coverage, financial inclusion and the creation of affordable housing options across a variety of economic sectors in urban and rural areas and to review existing legislation and regulations to make the national legal and regulatory environment more conducive to the creation and growth of cooperatives by improving existing laws and regulations and/or by establishing new ones, especially in the areas of access to capital, autonomy, competitiveness and fair taxation;
6. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to strengthen and build the capacity of all forms of cooperatives, especially those run by the poor, young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, so that they can empower people to transform their lives and communities positively and build inclusive societies, and to increase the meaningful participation of women and young people in cooperatives, in particular in their decision-making processes;
7. *Invites* Governments to strengthen efforts to enhance food security, nutrition and sustainable production and consumption and to focus efforts on smallholders and women farmers, as well as on agricultural and food cooperatives and farmers' networks, supported by measures to improve access to markets and financial capital, create enabling domestic and international environments and strengthen collaboration across the many initiatives in this area, including regional initiatives;
8. *Encourages* Governments to promote access to information and communications technologies as a vital channel for collaboration and the expansion of cooperatives, especially in rural areas, working towards closing digital gender divides;
9. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify and expand the availability, accessibility and dissemination of evidence-based research on the operations and contribution of cooperatives, to develop a statistical framework for the systematic collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data on and the best practices of cooperative enterprises, taking into consideration available methodologies, such as the guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives, in collaboration with all stakeholders, and to raise public awareness of the linkages between cooperatives and sustainable development, especially in the areas of social inclusion, decent employment creation,

³ A/76/209.

poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions, inequality reduction, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and peacebuilding;

10. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [47/90](#);

11. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, while respecting the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

12. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide women with equal access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes and enable women's cooperatives to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes and increase trade;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to continue to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, integrating cooperative values, principles and business models into educational programming, including school curricula, as appropriate, providing assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and promoting an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels, within existing resources;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VII

Promoting social integration through social inclusion

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, and noting the role of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010 on promoting social integration and General Assembly resolution [74/120](#) of 18 December 2019 and its previous resolutions on promoting social integration through social inclusion,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling its resolution [74/4](#) of 15 October 2019, in which it endorsed the political declaration in the annex thereto entitled “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit”,

Welcoming the fact that the 2030 Agenda reflects the cross-cutting nature and importance of social inclusion, through the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, and acknowledging that its promotion is required to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda includes, among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are integrated and indivisible, a goal to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Reaffirming its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Deeply concerned that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply

chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, is having a devastating impact on sustainable development, health and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education and environmentally sound waste management, especially for those most affected, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, in countries in special situations and in low- and middle-income countries, and is making the prospect of achieving all Sustainable Development Goals more difficult, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition, and achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, thereby making it more difficult to achieve social integration through social inclusion,

Acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, deeply concerned, however, that poverty persists and is estimated to increase because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and is particularly severe in developing countries, and that it extends to and manifests itself in, among other things, social exclusion, hunger, discrimination, the feminization of poverty, vulnerability to trafficking in persons and disease, lack of adequate shelter, lack of access to basic services, illiteracy and hopelessness,

Reaffirming that empowerment, participation and social protection are essential for social development, as well as for social inclusion, and that sustainable development requires the meaningful, full and equal participation of all,

Recognizing the great importance of promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, in order to help to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking note with appreciation of the commitment of several United Nations entities to mainstream social inclusion into their work, and encouraging others to do the same,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone, as necessary, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, which should be complemented, as appropriate, by effective social protection policies, including social inclusion policies,

Reaffirming also the importance of reducing inequalities within and among countries through the empowerment of all and the promotion of social, economic and political inclusion, especially for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

Recognizing that the gains of economic growth should also benefit those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and strategies and policies that promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Reaffirming its resolution 73/342 of 16 September 2019 on the International Labour Organization Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, in which it reaffirmed that full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of sustainable development,

Taking note of the International Labour Organization global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient,

Recognizing that social inclusion and equality are intrinsically linked and that focusing on and investing in the most disadvantaged and excluded populations, which may include children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, is critically important for the effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing also that social inclusion policies and systems play a critical role in promoting an inclusive society and are also crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion and inclusion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Reaffirming the important role of corporate social responsibility and accountability in contributing to an enabling environment to promote inclusive economic growth and social integration,

Recognizing that social inclusion policies also strengthen the democratic process and play a critical role in progressively realizing economic, social and cultural rights for all,

Stressing that social inclusion policies should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, including women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, considering that the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights, as an integral part of development policies at all levels, and recognizing that older persons can make a significant contribution to sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental,

Recognizing persons with disabilities as both agents and beneficiaries of development, stressing the need to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their participation, including through their representative organizations, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in that regard noting with appreciation the 2018 *Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities*,¹ the first progress report on disability inclusion in the context of the 2030 Agenda, which is aimed at advancing efforts to remove barriers and empower persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming that youth participation is important for development, and encouraging Member States to explore and promote the participation of young people

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. 19.IV.4.

in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, including in designing and implementing policies and programmes involving them, while implementing the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in promoting social integration, inter alia, through social programmes and support for the development of socially inclusive policies,

Acknowledging that the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations is crucial to formulating and implementing social inclusion policies that effectively achieve social integration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the important role of cooperatives, especially in developing countries, in reducing inequality within and among countries and ensuring social inclusion while promoting more inclusive and equitable growth in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of leaving no one behind,

Recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and reaffirming the essential role of national policies and strategies in promoting sustainable development in all its forms, particularly the promotion of social inclusion,

Recognizing also the importance of an enabling international environment, and stressing the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support national efforts towards promoting social integration through social inclusion in every country, including the fulfilment of all commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building,

Expressing concern that, in times of economic and financial crisis and ongoing concern about energy and food insecurity, social exclusion can be exacerbated, and stressing in this regard that sustainable and reliable social inclusion policies and programmes can play a positive role,

Recalling its resolution [74/205](#) of 19 December 2019 on financial inclusion for sustainable development, in which it recognized the importance of financial inclusion for achieving sustainable development,

Recognizing that digital technologies have profoundly transformed society, promote innovation and offer unprecedented opportunities and that they have the potential to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda, advancing social development and promoting social inclusion, by ensuring access to lifelong quality education and training, health and related social services, decent work, affordable housing, social protection, especially for those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, as well as fostering gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and in this regard considering that bridging the digital divide is essential for all and necessary for achieving social integration through social inclusion, while also acknowledging the risk that digitalization may contribute to rising inequalities and that it also poses new challenges regarding data protection and privacy,

Recalling its resolution [75/202](#) of 21 December 2020 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development,

Recognizing that, in order to leave no one behind and bring everyone forward, actions are needed for the promotion of equality of opportunity so that no person is denied basic economic and social opportunities, and recognizing also that the promotion of equality of opportunity contributes significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²
2. *Stresses* that Member States, which bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should prioritize the creation of a “society for all” based on respect for all human rights and the principles of equality among individuals, non-discrimination, access to basic social services and promotion of the active participation of every member of society, in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;
3. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities and that equity and social inclusion are important for achieving sustainable development, ensuring that individuals can participate without discrimination and contribute to its social, economic and environmental dimensions;
4. *Recognizes* that a framework for social development that is people-centred, gender-sensitive, respects human rights and has a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind can promote social integration through social inclusion, and that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response and can benefit from international cooperation;
5. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to advance, with determination, bold and concerted actions to address the social, economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing age-, disability- and gender-sensitive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ as well as helping to enhance resilience to future shocks, as one of the measures to ensure social integration through the social inclusion of all;
6. *Recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including safe, nutritious and sufficient food, health, safe drinking water and sanitation, housing and access to quality education and employment, through integrated development strategies, and reaffirms that the provision of basic social services in these areas should be seen as a means of fighting poverty, exclusion and promoting social integration, and in that regard encourages Member States to provide universal age-, disability- and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction and eradicating extreme poverty, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for people and families in vulnerable situations, which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to essential services, high-quality education and health and related social services;
7. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize additional innovative sources of financing, as appropriate, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection, and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;
8. *Stresses* the importance of promoting inclusive and equitable quality education that is age-, disability- and gender-sensitive, as well as lifelong learning

² A/76/184.

³ Resolution 70/1.

opportunities for all, especially for children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants, indigenous peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and of skills development and quality training as essential means for inclusive participation and integration in society;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to promote a more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains, through, inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies, in which employment has a key role, and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, particularly for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, as defined by each country in accordance with its individual circumstances, including on a demand-driven basis, and the promotion and protection of their social and economic rights;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider, when appropriate, the creation or the strengthening of national institutions or agencies for promoting, implementing and evaluating social inclusion programmes and mechanisms, at the national and local levels, in order to help to ensure that no one is left behind;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to consider promoting the increased civil, political and economic participation of women, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including through promoting their involvement in political processes and their access to social protection, credit, vocational training and employment support services;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive participatory and representative decision-making processes, at all levels, and to review existing legal frameworks, as appropriate, with a view to removing discriminatory provisions so as to reduce inequalities;

13. *Encourages* Member States to promote social inclusion as a matter of social justice in order to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and to help them to adapt to the negative impact of economic crises, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and climate change, and in this regard invites relevant United Nations entities and international institutions to support such efforts;

14. *Invites* Member States, and encourages regional organizations, to support national efforts to achieve inclusive societies, in particular in developing countries, upon their request, by providing, inter alia, financial and technical cooperation for the design and implementation of sound social inclusion policies;

15. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream social integration objectives into social inclusion policies, promoting the participation of persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations in planning, implementing and monitoring processes, in collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations;

16. *Also encourages* Member States, recognizing that all legal, social and economic barriers to the empowerment of all women and girls have to be removed, to promote the systematic mainstreaming and inclusion of a gender perspective in all social inclusion strategies or initiatives, while giving special consideration to the promotion of a gender-responsive policy environment in the workplace for the empowerment of women in the workplace;

17. *Further encourages* Member States to consider adopting and pursuing national financial inclusion strategies or initiatives that take into account a gender perspective and comprise, inter alia, measures for promoting full and equal access to formal financial services and financial literacy, as a way to increase the capacity of young people, women, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples to leverage various types of opportunities for their full participation in society, such as entrepreneurs;

18. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion, accordingly reaffirms its commitment to bridging the digital divide, and calls upon Member States to implement policies and to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide, as a measure to attain the social inclusion of all, with a focus on children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, without any discrimination;

19. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to close the digital divide, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the lack of efficient, affordable and accessible digital technology infrastructure, access to the Internet and communication devices, especially in rural and remote areas, and the challenges associated with digital literacy, digital skills, training and awareness, by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations;

20. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,⁴ to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

21. *Invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, development and social partners, the private sector and civil society organizations to continue to share their experience in respect of practical initiatives to promote economic, civil and political participation and non-discrimination measures and other measures for advancing social integration;

22. *Invites* Member States to consider a systematic exchange of good practices in social integration at the regional and international levels so that policymakers and other stakeholders can apply them to their national circumstances and step up progress towards achieving a “society for all”;

23. *Encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics for the formulation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving social inclusion, and stresses the importance of international cooperation in this regard;

⁴ Resolution 71/256, annex.

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, taking into account the information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;

25. *Decides* to consider the question further at its seventy-eighth session under the item entitled "Social development".

Draft resolution VIII

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁷ and emphasizing the responsibilities of all States to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including young people,

Recalling further the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁸

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which, for the first time, the General Assembly recognized children and youth as agents of change, and recognizing that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated, indivisible and global in nature, and therefore that all of them apply to youth,

Reiterating the commitments of Heads of State and Government in the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,⁹ in particular those related to listening to and working with youth, as well as to placing women and girls at the centre,

Recalling that youth development is not only critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but that it is also recognized in other development frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁰ the Istanbul Declaration¹¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹² the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹³ the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,¹⁴ the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)¹⁵ and the

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁸ Resolution 61/295, annex.

⁹ Resolution 75/1.

¹⁰ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. I.

¹² Ibid., chap. II.

¹³ Resolution 69/15, annex.

¹⁴ Resolution 71/1.

¹⁵ Resolution 71/256, annex.

outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹⁶ and all relevant international instruments or commitments related to migrants and refugees,

Recalling also that 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the Economic and Social Council youth forum, and acknowledging the important contributions made by the youth forum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its decade of action, and that it serves as an important platform for the effective participation and substantive contributions of young people to share their vision with decision makers and representatives of Governments and civil society,

Acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 1998, and in this context welcoming the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21, held on 22 and 23 June 2019, and noting the Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes,¹⁷

Welcoming the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her work in addressing the needs of and placing young people as a cross-cutting priority of the United Nations, ensuring that their perspectives are reflected across the United Nations work, as well as, inter alia, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments and their youth delegates, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening young people within and outside the United Nations system,

Noting the progress made on the implementation of Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, launched by the Secretary-General, in September 2018, to address the needs of youth and to fulfil their potential as agents of change, as well as the Generation Unlimited global partnership, which is aimed at ensuring that, by 2030, every young person has the opportunity for education, learning, training or employment,

Recalling that Member States have an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and in meeting the needs and aspirations of all young people, including those in vulnerable situations and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and recognizing that the ways in which they are able to fulfil their potential as agents of change will influence social, environmental and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of young people in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reaffirming the commitment to the full implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda,

Underlining the important role that youth can play in the promotion of sustainable development, human rights and the importance of the full, effective, constructive and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making,

Recognizing the important role of young people in accelerating climate action, and that tackling climate change requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, including youth and youth-led organizations, and recognizing also that the young generation will be most affected by today's decision-making,

¹⁶ Resolution 72/1.

¹⁷ A/73/949, annex.

which should therefore consider the impact on future generations, ensure long-term sustainability, and foster intergenerational equity,

Taking note of the convening of the “Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition” event, held from 28 to 30 September 2021, in Milan, Italy, in preparation for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the aim of contributing to the increase of youth-led climate ambition and implementing concrete actions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement,¹⁸ and emphasizing the importance of the participation of young people in the Conferences of the Parties,

Reaffirming that fulfilling the human rights, needs and well-being of youth, including adolescents and young women, is critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as other United Nations conferences and summits, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,¹⁹ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development²⁰ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,²¹ and their review conferences,

Welcoming the effective participation of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, and taking note that 2021 marks the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 36/17 of 9 November 1981, in which the General Assembly requested Governments to consider the inclusion of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly and to other United Nations meetings,

Reaffirming the importance of involving youth, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels in all matters of concern to them, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that a youthful population creates significant opportunities for development, and underlining in this regard the importance of the creation by Member States of appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend driven by large proportions of young people moving into the labour force, while adopting an inclusive and sustainable approach to development planning and implementation, with full respect for human rights,

Reaffirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, and emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including quality education and health, and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that, before the beginning of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, 67.2 million youth were unemployed and 118.3 million youth were living with their families in poverty, including more than 51 million in extreme poverty, and with the pandemic these numbers are likely to have increased,

Emphasizing the need to empower youth, including young women and girls, in order to achieve sustainable development, and stressing in this regard the commitment

¹⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

¹⁹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

²⁰ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²¹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to eradicate poverty and substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment, and in this regard takes note of the call for action of the International Labour Organization on the youth employment crisis and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth,

Emphasizing also the need to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, and to ensure, by 2030, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy,

Expressing concern about the spread of disinformation and misinformation, including among young people, particularly on social media platforms, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to spread racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, to violate and abuse human rights, including the right to privacy, to impede freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and to incite all forms of violence, hatred, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists, civil society and academia in countering this trend,

Recognizing that, while young people represent almost one quarter of the online population, they often lack job-relevant digital skills and knowledge to ensure their access to the labour market, and that building the digital skills of young people is crucial to boosting their future employability and social inclusion, by providing them, including young women and girls, access to educational resources online and necessary digital tools,

Recognizing also that the use of technology, specifically digital platforms, can mitigate the loss of education and learning opportunities caused by school closures, while expressing concern that the poorest and most vulnerable children and young people are least likely to live in a suitable home-learning environment with an adequate Internet connection and learning support,

Recognizing further that many countries are making progress towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030 and that the good health and well-being of young people are closely intertwined with their capacity to complete their education and seize employment opportunities,

Noting with concern that globally HIV continues to disproportionately impact young people, particularly young women, and that young people's knowledge and awareness of HIV and AIDS and access to and use of essential HIV-related services, including HIV testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis, remain unacceptably low, that condom use is on the decline and that young people, who represent 16 per cent of the global population, account for 28 per cent of new HIV infections, while stressing the need to create an environment that does not allow the dissemination of scientifically inaccurate information about HIV, including HIV denialism,

Recognizing that young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are most vulnerable to HIV, experiencing infection rates two or three times as high as those of young men, depending on the region, as well as many health-related threats and challenges,

Recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately impact young people, including young women and girls, and those who are in vulnerable situations, and that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic need to take into account multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequalities,

Recognizing further that the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 have placed unprecedented pressures on youth, and that, in order to achieve an equitable recovery from the pandemic, and to build back better, action is urgently needed to coordinate multisectoral investments to improve youth health and nutrition, mental health and well-being, education, information and communications technologies, safety and resilience and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with concern that incidences of discrimination and violence have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and that young women and girls have been disproportionately disadvantaged, resulting in a surge in young women and girls dropping out of school, adolescent pregnancies and unintended pregnancies, child, early and forced marriage, limited access to health-care services and a reduction in progress towards ending female genital mutilation,

Noting with concern also that, owing to school closures, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the digital divide, both between and within countries, including the gender digital divide and vast disparities in the availability of learning materials, including access to the Internet, and communication devices, and that even though much focus has turned to remote learning platforms, many public schools, especially in developing countries, are not set up to use them or do not have the technology and equipment to provide online teaching, which leads to limited or lack of education for many young people, especially young women and girls,

Noting the development of guiding principles and tools, for consideration by States, on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;²²
2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth,²³ and emphasizes that all 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and the role that the Commission for Social Development plays in supporting States in its implementation;
3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of State and Government in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁴ to leave no one behind, including youth, and the importance of implementing, following up on and reviewing strategies that adequately address youth issues and give all young people, as well as youth and youth-led organizations, real opportunities for full, effective, constructive and sustainable participation in society, including in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda;
4. *Recognizes* that 49 per cent of the world's population is under 30 and only 2.6 per cent of members of parliament belong to this age group, encourages the increase of youth representation in national and local legislatures;
5. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective youth policies and programmes, as well as coherent cross-sectoral efforts, based on the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to

²² A/76/210.

²³ Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

²⁴ Resolution 70/1.

evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

6. *Urges* Member States to protect, promote and fulfil the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, while ensuring that youth policies and programmes and their planning, design, implementation, monitoring and review include the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;

7. *Also urges* Member States to take measures to combat discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and to address issues relating to barriers to social integration and adequate participation, bearing in mind that the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people empowers them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural development of their countries;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General²⁵ for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women, marginalized groups and young people belonging to vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations, especially those affected by armed conflict, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

9. *Stresses* the need to strengthen and support the capacity of national statistical offices to design, collect and analyse data disaggregated by sex and age so as to contribute effectively to follow-up, reporting and accountability for the achievement of the youth dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people, including those based, inter alia, on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social inclusion and integration, including for young persons with disabilities, young migrants, young people in rural and remote areas and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

11. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular in the light of their consequence on children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth;

12. *Also reiterates* the need for more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth, while taking note of young people's diverse situations and conditions, backed by increased international support and, inter alia, by providing youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities and to realize the opportunity of the demographic dividend offered by young people, and calls for the increased participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, other relevant stakeholders and civil

²⁵ E/CN.5/2013/8.

society organizations in the development of such national development strategies, policies and plans;

13. *Emphasizes* the role of quality health education and literacy in promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and improving health outcomes over the life course, and in this regard encourages its promotion among young people by Member States, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes, both in and out of school, and through public campaigns, and to increase the access of youth to available, accessible, affordable, quality, safe, effective, sustainable and appropriate youth-friendly health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, social services, safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual health, as well as by paying special attention to and raising awareness regarding sports and physical activity, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, the promotion and protection of health, including mental health and well-being, and equitable access to education and participation, and support and care for youth with disabilities, the prevention of interpersonal violence, the prevention, control and effects of communicable and non-communicable diseases, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and recognizes the need to develop safe, affordable and youth-friendly counselling and prevention of psychoactive substance use and addictive behaviours;

14. *Also emphasizes* the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of young people, including by adopting and investing in mental health policies which respect the human rights of young people with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, recognizing and addressing risk factors for mental health conditions, scaling up comprehensive and integrated services, both in person and in digital contexts, for the prevention of mental health conditions, including suicide prevention, as well as providing psychosocial support, including resilience training, while raising awareness of mental health issues, the impact of misuse of digital technology on young people's mental health and well-being and tackling stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;

15. *Further emphasizes* that the respect for all human rights and addressing the specific needs of young people in the response to HIV and AIDS is a key element in efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and urges Member States to develop accessible, available and affordable and youth friendly health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as information and education programmes, including those related to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, delivered free from all forms of stigma and discrimination, and to strengthen efforts in this regard, including by ensuring the active involvement of young people living with or affected by HIV in the response;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers;

17. *Reiterates* the need to fulfil the right to education of all girls and young women, to economically empower women by providing them with job skills, employment opportunities, including access to decent work, financial and digital literacy and access to financial services, to scale up social protection interventions for all girls and young women, and to engage men and boys as agents of change in intensified efforts to combat all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and harassment, both in person and in digital contexts, and to transform negative social norms and gender stereotypes;

18. *Emphasizes* the right to education, recognizes that investment in universal, quality and inclusive education and training is the most important policy investment that States can make to ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth, and reiterates that access to inclusive, equitable and quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to develop the relevant skills, including complementary soft skills, and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people, including pregnant adolescents and young mothers, have access to such services and opportunities, which will allow them to be drivers of sustainable development;

19. *Urges* Member States to intensify efforts to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work, and improving synergies between the education and employment sectors to increase the prospects for integrating youth into the sustainable labour market, and through increased innovation and entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in quality education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

20. *Recognizes* the importance of a deep connection between youth and their respective cultural heritage and background as a tool for the establishment of positive relations based on the respect for cultural diversity, leading to peaceful integration also through artistic, cultural and sports initiatives;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide and promote innovation among youth by ensuring that information and communications technologies are fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, and in support of the concept of lifelong learning;

22. *Encourages* Member States to take the necessary and appropriate measures, with respect for human rights, to address disinformation and advocacy of hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on the Internet, particularly on digital platforms used for educational purposes, and stresses the importance of educating young learners of the digital age on the responsible use of

technologies and raising their awareness around harmful use of sensitive contents, to promote safety on the Internet so that it can continue to be a vibrant force that generates economic, social and cultural development;

23. *Urges* Member States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, including harmful practices, and the stereotypical roles of men and women that hinder social and personal development, by implementing the commitments to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, including their sexual and reproductive behaviour;

24. *Also urges* Member States to take comprehensive legal and policy measures in order to eliminate all forms of violence against girls and young women, including sexual harassment, and prevent violence, both in person and in digital contexts, such as bullying, including cyberbullying, address the reported surge of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reaffirms that States should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating violence against women, as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;²⁶

25. *Further urges* Member States to mainstream a gender-responsive approach into all development efforts, recognizing that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to improve, ensure and broaden the full, equal and meaningful participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all of their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including by providing access to quality education at all levels, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work and strengthening their economic independence;

26. *Recognizes* that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities with direct and indirect implications for the human rights and well-being of youth and which could make youth, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, vulnerable to their adverse impacts, including through suffering disproportionately in labour markets in times of crisis created by climate change, calls for the enhanced cooperation of and concerted action by Member States with youth in order to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that the education of youth can play in that respect, and encourages Member States to further promote youth participation in climate action and to consider youth perspectives in decision-making processes on climate change;

27. *Invites* Member States to actively engage civil society, in particular youth organizations, in decision-making processes regarding environmental policy and programming initiatives, aimed at countering climate change, desertification, land deterioration and biodiversity loss, and at strengthening youth involvement, their capacity-building and resilience, in particular those in developing countries, and at ensuring access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

²⁶ Resolution 48/104.

28. *Recognizes* that the sharing of responsibilities by family members, including on domestic and unpaid care work, creates an enabling family environment for the empowerment of youth, including girls and young women, which contributes to development, that youth make a significant contribution to the welfare of their families and that particular attention must be paid to solutions to youth unemployment in order to generate the human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development;

29. *Also recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard recognizes the importance of opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

30. *Further recognizes* all recent efforts to promote the youth and peace and security agenda, and calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to consider ways to increase the meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict processes and humanitarian action, as well as to take concrete measures to further assist youth in armed conflict situations, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, and to encourage the involvement of youth, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict situations, and recognizes the importance of protecting schools and universities from military use, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

31. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, also by considering endorsing and implementing relevant instruments for the protection of children in armed conflict;

32. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

33. *Also urges* Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people, including youth in marginalized groups affected or exploited by terrorism;

34. *Further urges* Member States to address legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers that limit young people's participation and representation, while enabling the capacities, resources, information, technology, support, space and skills needed to ensure free, active, independent, full and effective participation of youth, including youth in vulnerable situations;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to develop or maintain, in this regard, preventive measures and remedies for violations and abuses regarding the right to privacy in the digital age that may affect all individuals, including young people, promote digital literacy and technical skills to effectively protect their privacy and take measures to prevent cyberstalking and cyberbullying;

36. *Encourages* Member States to include youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

37. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters, including, inter alia, with Governments on the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme;

38. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

39. *Acknowledges* the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, requests United Nations entities, within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon United Nations entities and relevant partners to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

40. *Recognizes* the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her task of bringing the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization identified in her workplan, and encourages the Envoy to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media by empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, at the request of the Member States concerned, and calls upon Member States and United Nations entities to support, as appropriate, the Envoy in her efforts to advance the situation of youth globally;

41. *Decides* to convene a one day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government and with the full and effective participation of youth, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, with a view to addressing the challenges still faced by young people in the realization of their full potential and human rights and to strengthening political commitment for reinforced policies and programmes involving youth;

42. *Recommends*, in this regard, that the President of the General Assembly conduct consultations to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages Member States to report on progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals with regard to the youth agenda and challenges that still remain, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to be prepared in consultation with relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretariat to consult with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

Draft resolution IX Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [57/167](#) of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration¹ and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,² its resolution [58/134](#) of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions [60/135](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/142](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/130](#) of 18 December 2007, [63/151](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/132](#) of 18 December 2009, [65/182](#) of 21 December 2010, [66/127](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/139](#) and [67/143](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/134](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/146](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/164](#) of 17 December 2015, [71/164](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/144](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/143](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/125](#) of 18 December 2019 and [75/152](#) of 16 December 2020,

Recognizing that there has been a steady upward trend in the participation of Member States in the third review and appraisal cycle of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, although, in some parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,³

Taking note also of other initiatives that the Secretary-General, United Nations agencies and United Nations entities have undertaken in order to promote coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response and recovery efforts as a vital step towards achieving the pledge to leave no one behind, in particular those regarding the impact of COVID-19 on older persons, and noting in this regard the importance of promoting equal access of older persons to social services, health-care services, full and productive employment and decent work, encouraging their effective and meaningful participation, protecting their human rights, combating ageism and all forms of violence against them, as well as obtaining data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁸ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with

¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ [A/76/156](#).

⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁵ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁶ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Disabilities⁹ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,¹⁰

Noting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families¹¹ and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹²

Noting also the regional developments on the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons, including the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting further that, between 2019 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 38 per cent, from 1 billion to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth,¹³ and that this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions on ageing, specifically resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing,¹⁴ which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies, resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing,¹⁵ which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases and noted the importance of lifelong health-promotion and disease-prevention activities, and resolution 69.3 of 29 May 2016, entitled "Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life",¹⁶

Welcoming the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) in its resolution [75/131](#) of 14 December 2020,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionately heavy impact on older persons, in particular older women, and that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic need to respect their dignity, promote and protect their human rights and take into account all forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion, inequalities, as well as neglect, social isolation and loneliness,

Recognizing also that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected older persons living in long-term care facilities, including those in the context of informal long-term care provision, and stressing the importance of testing for COVID-19, providing personal protective equipment in long-term care facilities, securing emergency funding for such facilities, applying telemedicine and telehealth methods for mitigation purposes, and achieving universal health coverage, ensuring fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics,

Acknowledging that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are confronting a double burden of fighting communicable diseases, such

⁹ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹¹ Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹² Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

¹³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: 2019 Revision*.

¹⁴ See World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1.

¹⁵ See World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1.

¹⁶ See World Health Organization, document WHA69/2016/REC/1.

as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in parallel with the increasing threat of non-communicable diseases, and expressing concern about the impact on older persons,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among them, particularly older single women,

Recognizing the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and recognizing also the importance of the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights,

Concerned about the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities for older persons and affect their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing that, in particular, older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from gender inequality and are at greater risk of physical and psychological abuse and violence,

Recognizing that the prevalence of disabilities increases with age and that many older persons live with a disability,

Recognizing also that ageism is a widely prevalent and prejudicial attitude that may rest on the assumption that neglect of, and discrimination against, older persons is acceptable, and that ageism is the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination,

Recognizing further that the social exclusion of older persons is a complex process involving the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services as people age, and the inability of older persons to participate in societal relationships and activities, including cultural activities, available to the majority of people across the varied and multiple domains of society, and that it affects both the quality of life of older persons and the equity and cohesion of an ageing society as a whole, with considerable implications for the enjoyment by older persons of their human rights,

Acknowledging the importance of exploring ways to increase the visibility of and attention to the specific challenges faced by older persons in the global development policy framework, including identifying possible gaps and how best to address them,

Deeply concerned by the increasing number and scale of humanitarian emergencies and their impact on older persons, particularly older women, reiterating the importance of giving due consideration to their specific needs, as well as their capacity to respond, and to the contributions of older persons to the planning and implementation of humanitarian assistance and efforts in disaster risk reduction, and noting with concern that the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by older women can be exacerbated during humanitarian emergencies and aggravate their potential vulnerabilities,

Noting that the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will take place at the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2023, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2020/8](#) of 18 June 2020,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
2. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards an age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the well-being of older persons, and in this regard encourages Member States to seize this opportunity to take into account issues of relevance to older persons in their efforts to promote the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. *Encourages* Member States to address the situation of older persons in their voluntary national reviews presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
4. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;
5. *Emphasizes* the need to take effective measures against ageism and to view older persons as active contributors to society and not as passive receivers of care and assistance and an impending burden on welfare systems and economies, while promoting and protecting their human rights;
6. *Encourages* Member States to intensify efforts towards identifying ageing as an opportunity, and recognizes that older persons make substantial contributions to sustainable development efforts, including through their active participation in society;
7. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in different areas and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps, and calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by progressively taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, as well as social isolation and loneliness, to provide social protection, access to food and housing, health-care services, employment, legal capacity and access to justice and to address issues related to social integration and gender inequality through mainstreaming the rights of older persons into sustainable development strategies, urban policies and poverty reduction strategies, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development;
8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the renewal of the mandate at the forty-second session of the Human Rights Council,¹⁷ and stresses the importance of close coordination between the work of the Independent Expert and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of their respective mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Council, and relevant United Nations bodies and treaty bodies;
9. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert issued in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 42/12,¹⁸ and encourages Member States to be mindful of the recommendations contained therein;

¹⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, resolution 42/12.

¹⁸ See A/76/157.

10. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

11. *Encourages* Governments to actively address, through national, regional and international efforts, issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

12. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies, legislation and regulations, to systematically review and amend these, where appropriate, if they discriminate against older persons, especially on the basis of age, and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons in, inter alia, employment, social protection and the provision of social, health-care and long-term care services;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, in accordance with their national priorities, equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health-care services and family planning, education, culture and information and communications technologies, and to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of older persons, while recognizing that planning for and providing opportunities for making cities inclusive of older persons' economic and social participation is an important dimension of the construction of sustainable cities;

14. *Recognizes* that the risk of poverty increases with old age in several ways, and that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the financial security of older persons, including older widows, and in this regard calls upon Member States to enable people to reach old age in better economic conditions by, inter alia, addressing barriers in labour markets and inadequate social protection systems and combating elder abuse and neglect as well as the adverse impact of all forms of discrimination and inequalities experienced by older persons, especially older women;

15. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

16. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

17. *Encourages* Member States to consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including but not limited to strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age;

18. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement long-term care strategies, as well as to conduct research on good practices of care strategies, recognizing and supporting both paid and unpaid care work for the benefit of older persons, and to further promote long-term care as a positive social and economic investment and a source of employment expansion;

19. *Further encourages* Member States to promote terms and conditions of care work guided by International Labour Organization standards for all care workers, including but not limited to migrants, and to adopt measures to tackle the gender and age stereotypes for care work;

20. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacities to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by considering and devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

21. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and identify key priority areas for its implementation, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacities, as well as promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies and working with the regional commissions, as needed, and enlisting the help of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

22. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

23. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies that create national policy ownership and consensus-building;

24. *Recommends* that Governments be inclusive in involving older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them, including through simple consultative mechanisms to co-research or co-design such policies and programmes with or by older persons and to take due account of involving those who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are particularly vulnerable to high incidences of poverty and social exclusion;

25. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons, recognizes that the data revolution presents new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard recalls the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-Related Statistics and Age-Disaggregated Data and the consideration of its work;

26. *Encourages* States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, to address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedure mandate holders to pay due regard to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, particularly in their concluding observations and reports, respectively;

27. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

28. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women and older persons with disabilities;

29. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

30. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

31. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive narratives of all older persons;

32. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to every country's determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

33. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to facilitate the development of robust health systems and universal health coverage, encompassing universal, timely, affordable and equitable access to all essential health technologies, diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, safe, quality and effective vaccines, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, in order to ensure full access to COVID-19 immunization for all, in particular older persons, including those who are in vulnerable situations, especially older women;

34. *Recognizes* the importance of tools to achieve extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission, and to bring the pandemic to an end, by ensuring the availability of safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines;

35. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing health systems;

36. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education, lifelong learning and capacity-building of the health workforce, including paid care workers and unpaid caregivers, for home-based care;

37. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health and other policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

38. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health-care services and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

39. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders to prevent, monitor and address the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on older persons, including the particular risks that they face in accessing social protection and health services, and to ensure that health-care decisions affecting older persons respect their dignity and promote and protect their human rights, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

40. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents are deceased, have migrated, have been displaced, including in the context of humanitarian emergencies, or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

41. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being of and adequate health-care services for older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, in particular older women, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

42. *Urges* Member States to increase the resilience of older persons and ensure that they are able to achieve and maintain financial security during emergencies, through, inter alia, addressing the digital gap that currently affects many older persons and protecting them from violence and abuse in digital contexts; strengthening legal and social protection and adopting adequate employment measures; providing better care and support services, promoting long-term care and support at home, in the community and in institutional settings, with a view to ensuring their empowerment, as well as their autonomy and independence; adopting a people-centred, gender-sensitive comprehensive and integrated approach, with full respect for human rights, to health care to improve the well-being of older persons, including mental health care, non-communicable disease management and adult immunization efforts; and developing national vaccination plans that give priority to older persons and are guided by principles of equality and social justice;

43. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures, in accordance with national circumstances and, as appropriate, international humanitarian law, to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of older persons, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹⁹ by, inter alia, including older persons in disaster risk reduction and national and local emergency planning and response frameworks, collecting and using data disaggregated by age, sex and disability for policy design and implementation, as well as carrying out risk and vulnerabilities

¹⁹ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

analyses of older women in humanitarian emergencies with a view to minimizing the risk to older women of all forms of violence in such emergencies;

44. *Encourages* Member States to integrate lessons learned from the pandemic with regard to older persons in order to combat ageism, protect the human rights of older persons and strengthen existing policies and laws to address all forms of discrimination in all areas of their life, as well as to take concrete measures that integrate age- and gender-responsive preparedness plans into relevant policy areas at the national and international levels and ensure that older persons and their representatives are consulted in planning and decision-making processes that affect them, on an equal basis with others, in order to address their specific needs;

45. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in particular North-South cooperation, which is complemented by South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

46. *Encourages* Member States to establish or to strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, as well as in relation to increased life expectancy, with particular attention to promoting good health and addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

47. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

48. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

49. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda²⁰ and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better understanding of how to promote ageing in a way that is not adversely affected by rapid urbanization and gentrification;

50. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation

²⁰ Resolution 71/256, annex.

of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, through the regional commissions and regional initiatives, as well as the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

51. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, an informal network of interested United Nations entities that exchange information and integrate ageing into their work programmes on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

52. *Requests* the focal point on ageing of the United Nations system, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to enhance its collaboration with the focal points of the regional commissions, funds and programmes, and recommends that Member States reaffirm the roles of focal points within the United Nations system, increase technical cooperation efforts, consider expanding the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote ageing issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

53. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations trust fund for ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

54. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

55. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work and to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, including gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women;

56. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, among others, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to include in reports to their respective governing bodies relevant information on efforts made by Member States and the international community on issues of relevance to older persons, including their social inclusion;

57. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing,²¹ and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant

²¹ See [A/AC.278/2016/2](#), [A/AC.278/2017/2](#), [A/AC.278/2018/2](#), [A/AC.278/2019/2](#) and [A/AC.278/2021/2](#).

human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as national human rights institutions, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter and invited panellists, during the first 11 working sessions of the Working Group, and invites Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

58. *Encourages* Member States to continue to contribute to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, in particular by presenting measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, such as best practices, lessons learned and possible content for a multilateral legal instrument, as appropriate, in order to enable it to fulfil its existing mandate of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures, and by considering adopting at each session intergovernmentally negotiated recommendations to be presented for consideration by the General Assembly;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the organization of its twelfth session, of four days, in April 2022, with the provision of conference services, including interpretation services, and to include the annual sessions of the Working Group in the Organization's calendar of conferences and meetings;

60. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Social development";

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

Draft resolution X

Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [44/82](#) of 8 December 1989, [50/142](#) of 21 December 1995, [52/81](#) of 12 December 1997, [54/124](#) of 17 December 1999, [56/113](#) of 19 December 2001, [57/164](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/15](#) of 3 December 2003, [59/111](#) of 6 December 2004, [59/147](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/133](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/129](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/133](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/126](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/142](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/136](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/144](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/163](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/145](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/144](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/124](#) of 18 December 2019 and [75/153](#) of 16 December 2020, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, especially those relating to family-oriented policies in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, with attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can contribute to ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensuring better education outcomes for children, including early childhood development and education, enabling access to employment opportunities and decent work for parents and caregivers, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence, in particular against women and girls, and supporting the overall quality of life of families, including families in vulnerable situations, so that family members can realize their full potential, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing further the importance of the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024,

Acknowledging that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-oriented components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations and civil society, including academic institutions, to fulfil the objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging that the International Year and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for initiatives at the national and international levels, including family-oriented policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages, and can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of

poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹

Expressing solidarity with all people affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, expressing deep concern over its socioeconomic impact on families and on the roles within families affected by the loss of family members and caregivers, increased poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and unpaid care work, the disruption of education, as well as worsening mental health outcomes and an alarming increase in violence, in particular domestic violence, recognizing that many families play a role in caring for their members, which constitutes an additional challenge for families, and reaffirming the responsibility of States in protecting families from the negative effects of the pandemic,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has provided a critical recognition of the need and opportunity to build more effective, inclusive and resilient systems to protect and support families, in particular those families and family members in vulnerable situations, inter-alia, by providing access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-sensitive social protection systems and public services, and measures to ensure a work-family and a work-life balance,

Acknowledging that strengthening intergenerational relations, through such measures as promoting intergenerational living arrangements and encouraging extended family members to live in close proximity to each other, has been found to promote the autonomy, security and well-being of children and older persons and that initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and to support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations, as well as in promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;²
2. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger, to prevent the intergenerational transfer and feminization of poverty and ensure the well-being of all at all ages in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders to protect families and family members from the negative socioeconomic and health-related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including, inter alia, by providing access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-sensitive social protection systems and public services, expanded child and family benefits, paid parental leave and sick leave, improved flexibility of working arrangements and gender-sensitive services to reduce the burden of care, including quality childcare;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders to promote the preparations for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 at the national, regional and international

¹ Resolution 70/1.

² A/76/61-E/2021/4.

levels through practical initiatives, including family-oriented policies and programmes responding to the needs of all families;

5. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to support research and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and international levels on the impact of technological, demographic, urbanization, migration and climate change trends on families in order to harness their positive effects and mitigate their negative impacts;

6. *Invites* Member States to invest in a variety of inclusive, family-oriented gender-sensitive policies and programmes, which take into account the different needs and expectations of all families, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Encourages* Member States to continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies for poverty reduction in line with the main objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year, to confront family poverty and social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, particularly by women, and enhance efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through the improvement of working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and use of such opportunities, for their children's developmental benefit and as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market;

9. *Further encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality childcare facilities and facilities for children and other dependants and measures promoting the equal sharing of household responsibilities between women and men, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in this regard;

10. *Encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes that enhance strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements, parenting education, including for family caregivers, and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary caregivers, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization, active ageing, intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes and to provide universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, as can be the case of families headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health-care services, in addition to family services and counselling;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to provide legal identity, including birth registration, in accordance with international law, including relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child³ and/or relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ and death registration, as a means of, inter alia, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and access to benefits, including social protection;

13. *Invites* Member States to invest in accessible and affordable infrastructure, including adequate and affordable housing with support services for families, social services centres and transportation, to benefit families and prevent family homelessness and address its causes, including poverty, domestic violence and the lack of affordable housing, and to build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination;

14. *Encourages* Member States to invest in parenting education as a tool to enhance children's well-being and prevent all forms of violence against children, including through promoting non-violent forms of discipline, and to ensure that parenting education programmes are inclusive of parents, grandparents and, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the children, maintaining a gender perspective throughout;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to establish policies that support all families in providing a nurturing environment, and in preventing and eliminating domestic violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;

16. *Further encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of data, disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria, for the formulation and evaluation of family-oriented policies and programmes to effectively respond to the challenges faced by families and harness their contribution to development;

17. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations trust fund on family activities;

18. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector, in the development and implementation of relevant family-oriented policies and programmes;

19. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁴ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

20. *Requests* the focal point on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to enhance collaboration with the regional commissions, funds and programmes, recommends that the roles of focal points within the United Nations system be reaffirmed, and invites Member States to increase technical cooperation efforts, consider enhancing the role of the regional commissions on family issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on family issues and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to promote family issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

21. *Calls upon* Member States and agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to provide information on their activities, including on good practices at the national, regional and international levels, including the relevant United Nations forums, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, including the preparations for its thirtieth anniversary, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, including a description of the state of preparation for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year at all levels;

23. *Decides* to consider the topic “Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family” at its seventy-seventh session under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

Annex**Virtual informal meeting to hear introductory statements and hold interactive dialogues on agenda item 28 and sub-items (a) and (b)**

1. At the 3rd virtual informal meeting of the Committee held in the morning of 6 October 2021, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.
 2. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Morocco, China, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Algeria, Belarus and Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
 3. Also at the same meeting, the Executive Coordinator of United Nations Volunteers made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Israel, Japan, China, Brazil, Morocco and Serbia.
 4. At the same meeting, the Senior Social Policy Officer in the Disability Team at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of New Zealand, Mexico, China and the Philippines.
 5. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the European Union, Israel, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Slovenia, the Philippines, Mexico, Canada, Malaysia, China, Chile (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons), Argentina, the United States of America, India, Algeria and Morocco.
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