



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

### Second Committee

Agenda item 20 (d)

#### Globalization and interdependence: development cooperation with middle-income countries

##### State of Palestine:\* draft resolution

#### Development cooperation with middle-income countries

*The General Assembly,*

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

*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, 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,

*Reaffirming also* 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,

*Welcoming* the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup> and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations

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\* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/5](#) of 16 October 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.



Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>2</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Welcoming also* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions [70/215](#) of 22 December 2015 and [72/230](#) of 20 December 2017,

*Recalling also* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes, inter alia, that middle-income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it recognized that middle-income countries still face specific challenges,

*Welcoming* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General with regard to the repositioning of the United Nations development system, acknowledging the progress achieved thus far in advancing the mandates of its resolution [71/243](#) and its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018, and welcoming in this regard the discussions at the operational activities for development segment of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held over the past 12 years in Madrid,<sup>4</sup> San Salvador,<sup>5</sup> Windhoek<sup>6</sup> and San José,<sup>7</sup> and recalling also the regional conferences held in Cairo, in 2008, in Amman, in 2013, and in Minsk, in 2013 and 2015,

*Welcoming* the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held on 4 December 2018 at United Nations Headquarters,

*Emphasizing* that cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of efforts by Member States, reiterating that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, highlighting the need to respect each country's policy space and leadership in the implementation of policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, recognizing that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> See [A/62/71-E/2007/46](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> See [A/62/483-E/2007/90](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> See [A/C.2/63/3](#), annexes I and II.

<sup>7</sup> See [A/C.2/68/5](#).

highlighting the fact that processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, as well as capacity-building, are also critical, including pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

*Recognizing* that there is no “one size fits all” approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should respond to the varying development needs of programme countries, including those of middle-income countries, in a manner that addresses their specific challenges while mindful of their diversity, and should be aligned with their national development plans, strategies and circumstances in accordance with its mandates, keeping in mind the needs of the least developed countries,

*Noting* that, over the past 15 years, 35 low-income countries have transitioned to middle-income country status, reflecting the sustained economic growth achieved in most parts of the developing world,

*Stressing* that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries and that, despite notable progress in reducing poverty levels in both absolute and relative terms, poverty remains a problem in many middle-income countries, as they are still home to 73 per cent of the world’s people living in poverty,

*Welcoming* the willingness to develop a wider analysis of new measures, building on existing experiences with eligibility exception, for concessional finance and multidimensional assessments to address the limitations of an income-only assessment of development and graduation readiness,

*Recognizing with concern* that hunger and malnutrition have been increasing in many countries, most of those (44 out of 65) being middle-income countries and countries that rely heavily on international trade in primary commodities,

*Recognizing* that inequality, or even a rise in inequality, remains pervasive in middle-income countries, even in those with high levels of economic growth, that further investments in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce inequalities and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable,

*Stressing* that middle-income countries continue to face particular challenges related to, inter alia, job creation, the diversification and transformation of their economies and access to international markets and, in this regard, that efforts to create a national enabling environment for development should be complemented by a global enabling environment,

*Stressing also* that middle-income countries need access to better technologies, research and innovation and better management practices that match their needs to foster skills development, boost productivity and achieve sustainable economic growth,

*Recognizing* that connectivity through quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, contributes to the sustainable development of middle-income countries,

*Recalling* that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to our common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

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

*Recalling further* the importance of international support, in various forms, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, that is well aligned with national priorities to contribute to addressing the development needs of middle-income countries, including through capacity-building,

*Recognizing* the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and acknowledging the significant role that the United Nations system has played and should continue to play in this regard,

*Expressing concern* that climate change is adversely affecting productivity in every country, in particular developing countries, including middle-income countries, as extreme weather shocks directly affect productivity through the destruction of infrastructure and labour force displacement, and that a number of middle-income countries have sizeable sectors that are exposed to climate change, such as agriculture, construction, mining, tourism and transport,

*Reaffirming* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in that regard reiterating the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies,

*Noting with concern* that the debt service of middle-income countries has increased since 2011, reaching more than 14 per cent of total exports and primary income,

*Recognizing with concern* that external debt stocks in middle-income countries have grown over the past decade, resulting in a doubling of the combined external debt stock for middle-income countries to more than \$2 trillion in 2018, from just above \$1 trillion in 2009, as a result of which the debt of middle-income countries not only is growing at a faster pace than anticipated but also is more costly, with a shorter maturity,

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

*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 endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*Recommitting* to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>8</sup>
2. *Acknowledges* the efforts made and successes achieved by many middle-income countries in eradicating poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, as well as their significant contribution to global and regional development and economic stability;
3. *Also acknowledges* that identifying structural gaps can improve the understanding of development needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries;
4. *Underlines* that for many middle-income countries, even in the upper-middle-income category, official development assistance, including financing on concessional terms from different multilateral financial institutions, remains important since, as per capita income increases above low-income thresholds, access to external public finance often decreases faster than can be offset by commensurate increases in tax revenues in per capita terms;
5. *Also underlines* the need for sustained efforts towards achieving debt sustainability in middle-income countries in order to avoid a debt crisis, and the importance of debt restructurings being timely, orderly, effective, fair and negotiated in good faith;
6. *Recognizes* that, with 73 per cent of the world's poor population concentrated in middle-income countries, cooperation with those countries can contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;
7. *Welcomes* the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries, in particular the financial, technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support being provided by middle-income countries, particularly to the least developed countries, through South-South and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system to continue its ongoing efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;
8. *Also welcomes* the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019;<sup>9</sup>
9. *Recalls* that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development;
10. *Requests* the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria;
11. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system, in line with its resolution [71/243](#), to continue to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and their development objectives, and requests the development system to address, within existing resources and mandates, the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, as well as

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<sup>8</sup> [A/74/269](#).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>10</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>11</sup> and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present, as part of his report on the implementation of the present resolution, an assessment of the outcomes of existing strategies within the United Nations development system related to middle-income countries;

12. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly during the second half of the seventy-fourth session to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on the economic dimension of sustainable development, and requests the Secretary-General to consider these discussions in the drafting of his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the private sector, as well as of the role of public-private partnerships, in meeting the challenges of sustainable development for middle-income countries and other developing countries;

14. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which was launched at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in this regard also welcomes the convening of the first through fourth annual multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held at United Nations Headquarters on 6 and 7 June 2016, 15 and 16 May 2017, 5 and 6 June 2018 and 14 and 15 May 2019, as well as the mapping exercise carried out by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for voluntary contributions for resources to support the full operationalization of all components of the Mechanism;

15. *Recognizes* the great importance of providing trade-related capacity-building for developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and middle-income countries, including for the promotion of regional economic integration and interconnectivity;

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

17. *Notes with concern* that access to concessional finance is reduced as countries' incomes grow and that countries may not be able to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their needs, encourages shareholders in multilateral development banks to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual, and encourages multilateral development banks to explore ways to ensure that their assistance best addresses the opportunities and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries;

18. *Recognizes* that Governments will have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review at the national, regional and global levels in relation to the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data, including through strengthened capacity in improving access to data at the national and local levels, will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left

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<sup>10</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 70/1.

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behind, and in this regard reiterates the commitment to intensifying efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, including middle-income countries;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth, seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions, within existing resources, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an exhaustive analysis of the particular challenges faced by middle-income countries and the means of implementation with regard to their efforts to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”.

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