



**United Nations**

# **Commission for Social Development**

**Report on the sixty-first session  
(16 February 2022 and 6–15 February 2023)**

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*Note*

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

## *Summary*

The sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development was held on 16 February 2022 and from 6 to 15 February 2023. The Commission deliberated on the priority theme of “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. It reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, as well as the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Commission held a high-level panel discussion and a ministerial forum on the priority theme, a high-level panel discussion on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, a panel discussion on emerging issues and a multi-stakeholder forum and an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme. A total of 26 ministers and 4 vice-ministers participated in the general discussion of the Commission.

The President of the Economic and Social Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Chair of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on Social Development and representatives of youth and older persons participated in the opening session. The President of the Economic and Social Council stressed that Governments must put people first and support those regions, industries and workers that faced the greatest challenges to ensure a fair and inclusive transition to a green economy. She emphasized the need for policies such as tailored job-search assistance, flexible learning courses, employment programmes, and hiring and transition incentives that facilitated the reallocation of displaced workers.

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs urged the Commission to make bold recommendations on cross-cutting solutions that could push the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development forward. Those recommendations should help create more inclusive and adaptable labour markets and provide targeted support for people in vulnerable situations. He noted that about 60 per cent of the workforce – 2 billion people – was employed in the informal economy and that many of those living in vulnerable situations were bearing the brunt of unemployment. The Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development highlighted that a disconnected and fragmented approach to social, economic and environmental policies had not produced the desired results towards poverty eradication and social inclusion. She stated that the proposed world social summit in 2025 could provide a way to generate momentum, forging new commitments to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.

The youth representative stressed that all interventions must be as inclusive as possible and must not exclude young people, children or older persons. He called on Member States to commit to implementing existing policies that supported decent and quality jobs for all and creating new policies that were inclusive, equitable and adaptable to the labour market. A representative of older persons noted that despite strides by Governments in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, older persons around the world continued to face persistent barriers to their autonomy, identity and independence. She recalled that during the current review of the Plan of Action, Member States had acknowledged that an international legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons would complement and reinforce the Plan of Action. She urged Governments to take swift and bold actions to ensure that ageing policies were human rights-based.

Member States thanked the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports and expressed their appreciation of and commitment to the work of the Commission, during the general discussions on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3. The importance of decent work to achieve full recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, accelerate inclusive economic growth, build resilient societies, promote social inclusion and cohesion, combat terrorism and ensure a sustainable future was recognized. The need to increase productivity at work, the importance of social protection, especially for those in vulnerable situations, labour market regulation and social justice and equity, and the need to develop business incubators and increase productive opportunities for youth were among the key lessons that had emerged from the various policies implemented by Member States. The critical role of international cooperation was emphasized.

The high-level panel discussion on the priority theme highlighted how environmental, social, health and political crises hit the most vulnerable first. The importance of formalization and the measures, tools and strategies that could be used by Member States, including the strengthening of national labour inspection towards formalization, financial inclusion and incentive measures, were discussed. Investment in pre-distribution policies, including universal access to quality education, especially early childhood education, was underscored as a key enabler. Universal social protection, including floors, along with green and care economies, and the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in the labour market, were emphasized as important elements for the creation of decent work for all to reduce inequality.

The ministerial forum on the priority theme also highlighted the critical role of employment and decent work in tackling inequality, with a particular focus on several groups that had traditionally been excluded and marginalized in the labour force. Young people, women, migrant workers and persons with disabilities were particularly vulnerable to poverty, discrimination and exploitation at work, often as a result of a lack of formal job opportunities, a lack of decent minimum wages and precarious work. Ministers noted that social protection had been a front-line response of Governments to protect people's health, jobs and incomes during the pandemic and emphasized that digital, green and care economies provided many opportunities for pursuing decent work.

The high-level panel discussion on the Madrid Plan of Action provided insights, from a regional perspective, on the implementation of the Plan of Action and stimulated an interactive discussion and open exchange of views between all the participants, including Member States and NGOs. One of the most salient conclusions was that the Plan of Action provided a solid foundation to bring about far-reaching social and economic changes towards sustainable development. Looking forward, the panel provided various proposals to explore opportunities to enhance the implementation of the Plan of Action, including through considering a Third World Assembly on Ageing, as well as developing an international legal instrument to further the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons.

Participants in the panel discussion on "Emerging issues: addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" identified policies and measures aimed at addressing the key social, economic, climate and other major crises with which the world was currently dealing. Panellists emphasized the need for financing global public goods and reforming the international financial architecture to fund actions for sustainable development. They also presented successful social protection policies in both developed and developing countries. Some of those examples showed that many of the policy measures required

strong political will for their implementation and careful design to target the most vulnerable.

Participants in the interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme outlined that actions did matter when it came to reversing course and ensuring a fairer division of resources. It was important to put transformative, inclusive and bold policies in place and ensure that everyone could fully contribute to the world of work for as long as he or she wished and realize the potential of longer and healthier lives. Bolstering strategies to reduce informality, promoting decent work, universalizing social protection, fostering a justice transition to greener and more equal societies, promoting fair trade and sustainable supply chains, championing transformative gender policies, strengthening the institutional framework for social policy and safeguarding social investment were among the key recommendations discussed.

The multistakeholder forum on the priority theme focused on the approaches taken by actors from different sectors – government, public, private and civil society – to create full and productive employment and decent work for all. It was emphasized that active collaboration between the Government and the business sector, as well as measures and programmes targeting women, young people, persons with disabilities and others in vulnerable situations, could ensure that the recovery from the pandemic was accompanied by the creation of full, productive and decent employment for all, a reduction in inequality and greater inclusiveness.

Over 300 representatives of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the session. The Commission received more than 40 written statements from NGOs and hosted over 50 side events organized by Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations accredited to the Council. The session was well covered on social media, with more than 2,000 mentions, 7,000 engagements and a potential reach of around 96.8 million on social media platforms.

The Commission decided that the priority theme for the sixty-second session would be “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”. The Commission adopted five draft resolutions on (a) future organization and methods of work of the Commission; (b) social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; (c) creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (d) fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and (e) policies and programmes involving youth. The first four of those resolutions were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	7
A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council . . . . .	7
B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council . . . . .	44
C. Decisions calling for action by the Council . . . . .	46
D. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council . . . . .	47
II. Organizational matters: future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development. . . . .	53
III. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. . . . .	54
A. Priority theme: creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development . . . . .	55
B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups . . . . .	58
C. Emerging issues: addressing the social impacts of multi-faceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development . . . . .	59
IV. Programme questions and other matters . . . . .	60
A. Proposed programme plan for 2024 . . . . .	60
B. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development . . . . .	60
V. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission . . . . .	61
VI. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session . . . . .	62
VII. Organization of the session . . . . .	63
A. Opening and duration of the session. . . . .	63
B. Attendance . . . . .	63
C. Election of officers . . . . .	63
D. Agenda and organization of work . . . . .	64
E. Documentation. . . . .	64
Annex	
List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session. . . . .	65

## Chapter I

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

#### A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

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

#### **Draft resolution I** **Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008, 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, [2012/7](#) of 26 July 2012, [2014/3](#) of 12 June 2014, [2016/6](#) of 2 June 2016, [2018/3](#) of 17 April 2018, [2019/4](#) of 6 June 2019 and [2021/8](#) of 8 June 2021 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [50/161](#) of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the outcome of the World Summit<sup>1</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this ambitious new Agenda,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [68/1](#) of 20 September 2013, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution [61/16](#) on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, as well as its follow-up resolutions [72/305](#) of 23 July 2018, [74/298](#) of 12 August 2020 and [75/290](#) A of 25 June 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, by which it decided that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and should advise the Council thereon,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution [76/134](#) of 16 December 2021, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to address, as part of its mandate, 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 invited 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,

<sup>1</sup> *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.

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

*Recognizing* that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>3</sup> the World Programme of Action for Youth<sup>4</sup> and the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, the objectives of the International Year of the Family and their follow-up processes and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,<sup>5</sup> as well as the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>6</sup> and other relevant key instruments, as well as the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, are mutually reinforcing to the advancement of social development for all,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

*Recalling* that the Council needs to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of its agenda, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, serving as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues and in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, continues to have the primary responsibility to review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, 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;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>7</sup> within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, reflecting the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements established by the General Assembly and the Council;

3. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), in which the Assembly stipulated that, inter alia, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council shall adopt their own respective themes, aligned with the main theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge their other functions;

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<sup>3</sup> *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.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [50/81](#), annex, and resolution [62/126](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution [68/3](#).

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

4. *Also recalls* that the Commission considers one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit 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;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision that, in selecting its priority themes, the Commission shall consider, in addition to the follow-up to and review of the World Summit and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, as well as the 2030 Agenda, the programme of work of the Council and the main theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council;

6. *Requests* the Commission to adopt a multi-year programme of work, subsequent to the review of General Assembly resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, when considering the future organization and methods of work of the Commission at its sixty-third session, to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation;

7. *Decides* that the priority theme for the sixty-second session of the Commission, which shall allow it to contribute to the work of the Council, will be “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”;

8. *Also decides* that the Commission shall adopt a decision at its sixty-second session to establish the priority theme for its sixty-third session, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

9. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the relevant specialized agencies, regional commissions, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to present their relevant activities and reports, which may contribute to the advancement of the priority theme, including by participating in interactive dialogues with Member States and relevant stakeholders;

10. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work, including by addressing the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Reaffirms* its decision to promote efficiency in its work through the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission, with a view to strengthening the resolution on the priority theme, eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

12. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in line with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

13. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, including as related to the timing and number of working days of its sessions, at its sixty-third session in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work of the Council, in line with the outcome of the General Assembly review of the strengthening of the Council and the process of repositioning the United Nations development system.

## Draft resolution II Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,<sup>1</sup> and of 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,<sup>2</sup> the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>4</sup> and reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,<sup>5</sup>

*Recognizing* the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa<sup>6</sup> and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,<sup>7</sup> and noting the relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed 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* General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, containing 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,

*Reaffirming further* the determination to mobilize the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people,

*Reaffirming* Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, and the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063, in which flagship projects,

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 57/2.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 68.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 63/1.

<sup>8</sup> A/57/304, annex.

priority areas and policy measures to support the implementation of the continental development framework were outlined and form the strategic framework for Africa's inclusive growth and sustainable development and optimization of the use of the continent's resources for the benefit of all its people,

*Recalling* the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and noting the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa in January 2016,

*Acknowledging* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership, both of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena, and underscoring in this regard the importance of a coherent and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution [71/254](#) of 23 December 2016, entitled "Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027", and welcoming in this regard the signing on 27 January 2018 of the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote the integrated and coordinated implementation and monitoring of and reporting on both Agendas through joint activities and programmes,

*Acknowledging* that the attainment of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 is critical to ensuring a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens of Africa through income security, jobs and decent work, poverty and hunger eradication, inequality reduction, social security and protection floors, particularly for persons with disabilities, modern, affordable and liveable habitats and quality basic services, healthy and nourished citizens with access to health care, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities, full gender equality in all spheres of life and engaged and empowered youth and children,

*Recalling* the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty on the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

*Recalling also* the adoption by the African Union Executive Council in 2019 of several policy frameworks following the recommendations of the third ordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, including the African Union Social Agenda 2063, the African Union Commission-International Labour Organization Joint Programme on Decent Work for the Transformation of the Informal Economy (2020–2024), the Ten-Year Action Plan on Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Africa (2020–2030), five-year strategies for the African Union campaigns to end child marriage and female genital mutilation, including a clear accountability framework, the African Union Disability Strategic Framework, and the draft Protocol on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security,

*Noting with concern* the continued high prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, as well as violence and other harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation, and reaffirming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to

end child marriage in Africa, launched at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage and the endorsement by the Pan-African Parliament in August 2016 of a ban on female genital mutilation,

*Recognizing* that many countries, particularly developing countries, still face considerable challenges and some have fallen further behind, emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership programme, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa, with a view to leaving no one behind,

*Recognizing also* that investments in people, especially in their social protection, health-inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, are essential to enhancing productivity in all sectors, including agriculture, and thereby key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities for all, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

*Recalling* the outcome of the high-level meeting of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly on universal health coverage, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,<sup>9</sup> in which it reiterated, inter alia, the importance of scaling up the global effort to leave no one behind and to build a healthier world for all, as well as accelerating efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course,

*Recognizing* that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the enjoyment of all human rights, will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial, and in this regard recalling the adoption, at the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, in Maputo on 11 July 2003, and the African Women’s Decade (2010–2020), commending the adoption of the African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment at the third session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, held in Addis Ababa from 7 to 11 May 2018, and commending also the adoption of the New African Women’s Decade (2020–2030) as the Decade of Women’s Financial and Economic Inclusion at the thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa on 10 February 2020,

*Recognizing also* that the lack of access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa’s disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people’s health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

*Reiterating* the importance of strengthening policy and programmatic linkages between public health, pollution control, climate action, biodiversity conservation,

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<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 74/2.

ecosystem integrity, socioeconomic equity, inclusiveness and prosperity as one of the most effective strategies for Africa's post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery,

*Noting with appreciation* that 31 African countries are eligible or potentially eligible for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and its advancement, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, including 30 countries that have received full debt relief after they reached their completion points and the Sudan, which has made tangible progress towards establishing a strong track record of policy required to achieve this milestone, and urging the international financial community to accelerate the progress on debt relief and to continue to work together to lower to sustainable levels the external debt burdens of the most heavily indebted countries,

*Emphasizing* that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability, debt transparency and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing the need to continue to assist developing countries, including African countries, in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt, taking into account the challenges posed by the global economic environment and risks for debt sustainability in a growing number of developing countries, and the consequent need for coordinated policy responses, recognizing the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools, and recognizing with appreciation the steps taken by the Group of 20, in particular under the presidencies of Saudi Arabia, Italy and Indonesia, to further promote debt-related measures and the implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and calling for all official bilateral creditors to implement these initiatives fully and in a transparent, timely and effective manner, while noting that more needs to be done, including to respond to the needs of countries not covered by current initiatives,

*Bearing in mind* that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by the international community and an enabling international economic environment, reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conferences on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,<sup>10</sup>

*Underscoring* 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 the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

*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

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<sup>10</sup> See *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; and General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, and resolution 69/313, annex.

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,

*Noting with great concern* the continuing multidimensional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African countries, including significant impacts on poverty, food security, unemployment, trade, disrupted supply chains, tourism and financial flows, as well as its social impacts, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including violence against women and girls, causing more challenges for African countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and recognizing the great efforts made by African countries in combating the COVID-19 pandemic to save lives and achieve a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery,

*Determined* to address the COVID-19 pandemic through a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation among States, peoples and generations that enhances the ability and resolve of States and other relevant stakeholders to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>11</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;
3. *Also welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the voluntary adherence of 42 African countries to the Mechanism and the completion of the peer review process in 24 countries, and further welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process by 2023, as envisaged in the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, takes note of the decision on its institutional reform, and emphasizes African ownership of the process, and invites the international community to support the efforts of African countries, at their request, in implementing their respective national programmes of action;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
5. *Takes note* of the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by Africa's regional economic communities, the African Union Development Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Symposium on Statistical Development, as well as the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, both of which have fostered convergence in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year implementation plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a unified implementation and monitoring plan for Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and notes the incorporation of the first 10-year implementation plan into national planning frameworks by 42 countries;

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<sup>11</sup> E/CN.5/2023/2.

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the governance structures of the African Union Development Agency, the implementing mechanism for the African Union Agenda 2063 development strategy, during the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in Niamey on 4 and 5 July 2019, and whose mission is to foster the development of the continent through effective and integrated planning, coordination and implementation of Agenda 2063 with Member States, regional economic communities and pan-African institutions by leveraging partnerships and technical cooperation;

7. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of all women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the African Union Commission, which have resulted in the launch of national campaigns to end child, early and forced marriage in 24 countries, the adoption in 2017 of the African Common Position on the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and its extension for a five-year period from 2019 to 2023, the adoption by the Assembly of the African Union in February 2019 of the decision on galvanizing political commitment towards the elimination of female genital mutilation in Africa, in which it endorsed the African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation known as the Saleema Initiative, the adoption of national laws penalizing the practice in 23 African countries, and the operationalization in April 2022 of the African Union Accountability Framework on Eliminating Harmful Practices, but remains concerned about the increased risk of child, early and forced marriages in some countries in Africa exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the launch, on 24 August 2018 in Addis Ababa, by the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Telecommunication Union, of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (2018–2022), which is aimed at enhancing the mastering of information and communications technology for girls and women and, therefore, increasing their contribution to Africa's innovation in that sector;

10. *Encourages* African countries to strengthen and expand local and regional, and hard and soft infrastructure resilient to climate change, while recognizing the importance of quality infrastructure investment, through both foreign and domestic investment, and to continue to share best practices with a view to strengthening regional and continental integration, and in this regard recognizes the need for Africa's development partners to align their efforts towards supporting the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, a robust infrastructure portfolio which is now in its Priority Action Plan 2 phase and consists of 69 transport, energy, water and information and communications technology projects with an implementation horizon from 2021 to 2030, and to build a more robust system against natural disasters and extreme weather events;

11. *Acknowledges* the progress made towards ensuring free movement of persons as well as goods and services in Africa, and in this regard welcomes with appreciation the entry into force on 30 May 2019 of the agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to boost intra-African trade and continental integration, and which has gathered 54 signatures from member States, of which 44 had ratified the agreement, as of October 2022;

12. *Recalls* the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth and the first five-year priority programme on

employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development 2017, and welcomes the declaration by the African Union of the period from 2018 to 2027 as the African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment, with a focus on the creation of decent jobs for youth and women, aimed at achieving more inclusive growth and sustainable poverty eradication;

13. *Notes* the decision taken at the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union to endorse and launch 2022 as the Year of Nutrition, under the theme “Strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent: strengthening agro-food systems, health and social protection systems for the acceleration of human, social and economic capital development”, and welcomes the focus of the 2022 theme of the African Union on taking action on food security and nutrition goals and convening of the African Union High-level Conference on Food Security and Nutrition in October 2022;

14. *Urges* all countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>12</sup> encourages States parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument for deterring, detecting, preventing and countering corruption and bribery, prosecuting those involved in corrupt activities and recovering and returning stolen assets to their country of origin, as appropriate, encourages the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expresses support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urges the updating and ratification of regional conventions against corruption, and strives to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

15. *Calls upon* African Governments to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, to demonstrate the commitment of Member States to the dignity, empowerment and rights of persons with disabilities and older persons across the continent;

16. *Notes* that health is a precondition, an indicator and an outcome of sustainable development and that, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, robust efforts are needed to integrate additional health issues into a broad health and development agenda, and therefore takes note of the declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its thirty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 February 2019, in which it committed to supporting and enhancing the reform of the health sector through adopting the Health in All Policies approach in order to achieve universal health coverage and curb the outbreak of major diseases in Africa and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Welcomes* the adoption by Heads of States and Government of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency during the thirty-second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in February 2019, with the mission of strengthening regulatory systems to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medicines, medical products and technologies that will provide effective protection of public health against future pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks in Africa, and which has gathered 29 signatures from member States, of which 22 have ratified the agreement, as of April 2022, and notes the other relevant initiatives such as the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team initiative, accelerating post-COVID economic and social development;

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

18. *Urges* African Governments to fast-track the implementation of the revised Africa Health Strategy for the period 2016–2030, which provides umbrella guidance for the development of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy, the Maputo Plan of Action 2016–2030 for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS and Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030, welcomes the Declaration on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa adopted by African Ministers of Health in 2016, and the 2017 declaration on committing to accelerate implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005),<sup>13</sup> and also urges African Governments to achieve ambitious targets, a business case and strategic priorities to end the three diseases as a public health threat by 2030;

19. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard recalls the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, notes the decision of the African Union to restrengthen the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa during the period 2021–2030, and urges the pursuit and implementation of commitments to improve maternal and child health;

20. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2021 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS,<sup>14</sup> and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an Africa free of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, by addressing the needs of all, in particular those of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to significantly scale up efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

21. *Also takes note* of the decision of the African Union to extend the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 and to use the year 2021, which marked the twentieth anniversary of the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, as an opportunity to undertake a critical review of the situation and the consequences of these diseases in Africa, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform from which to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with relevant international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support the efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the Road Map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization

<sup>13</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 75/284, annex.

and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

22. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including by providing support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of disease, including outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

23. *Encourages* Member States to continue to provide international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies, and notes the strategy of the African Ministers' Council on Water for the period 2018–2030, launched for the achievement of the African Water Vision 2025, Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

25. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

26. *Further emphasizes* that the poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure productive employment creation and decent work for all, to promote quality education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

27. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

28. *Encourages* African countries to accelerate actions for eradicating extreme poverty, provide decent jobs and tackle the climate emergency, by investing in a sustainable, inclusive and just transition, including strategies to promote the social and solidarity economy, which can boost economic growth and create jobs, and strategies for adaptation and mitigation to climate change, modernizing smallholder agriculture, adding value to primary commodities and improving public and private institutions of economic and political governance;

29. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, with due regard to the sustainable management and use of natural resources, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national

development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

30. *Encourages* African countries to continue to foster political stability, promote peace and security and strengthen the governance, policy and institutional environment in order to enhance the prospects for inclusive and sustainable development, and to develop an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic transformation and the creation of productive employment and decent work for all;

31. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use such assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

32. *Notes* that preliminary data show that net bilateral official development assistance flows from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee to Africa rose to 35 billion United States dollars in 2021, representing an increase of 3.4 per cent in real terms compared with 2020, including 33 billion dollars of net official development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa in 2021, an increase of 2 per cent in real terms, while in relative terms official development assistance remained far from the international commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross national income;

33. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, is encouraged by 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, and urges all others to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards official development assistance targets;

34. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving 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, and therefore requests those stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries, while also acknowledging that official development assistance and other concessional finance is still important for a number of these countries and has a role to play for targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries;

35. *Also recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential

for the full achievement of that goal, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including in Africa, to independently achieving sustainable development;

36. *Further recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

37. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to realign the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to deal with the major themes of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Mechanism in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of the financing necessary to support the implementation of its activities;

38. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

39. *Takes note* of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, which aims to have an impact across critical sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, health, infrastructure development, mining, security and water;

40. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of sustainable agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase the access of smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote rural-urban linkages through small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

41. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

42. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for the alignment of external funding;

43. *Welcomes* progress made in addressing issues such as food security through the adoption of a resolution on the development of a model law on food security and nutrition in Africa in October 2018 by the Pan-African Parliament, and the development of a technical cooperation project to incorporate indigenous crops

into the African nutritious food basket for improved food security and nutrition, and notes the Africa Common Position on Food Systems, which provides a synthesis of African member States' expressed views, perspectives and priorities as well as ambitions on key issues shaping Africa's and the global food systems, informed by dialogues on the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, including the African Regional Dialogue, held in Morocco on 13 July 2021, with the aim of accelerating the strengthening of food systems with a regional specificity that takes its substance in African agricultural and food systems, African diets, the living conditions of African populations and the ambitions of African societies;

44. *Reaffirms* that among the objectives of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/233](#) of 20 December 2017, are maintenance of the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, for the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their objective of leaving no one behind;

45. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing productive employment, generating decent work for all, particularly those who are vulnerable, including women and young people, and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

46. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of adequate human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including policy coherence, coordination and implementation, as well as planning, management and monitoring capacities;

47. *Also emphasizes* the importance of accelerating strategies for closing the gender divide in access to education, health care, decent work, digital information and communications technologies, including the Internet, food and agricultural services and of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, including efforts to realize girls' right to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and takes note of continental initiatives such as the African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa, which presented its third strategic plan (2021–2025), entitled "Building resilience to foster African human capital through girls' and women's education for sustainable development", which is aimed at achieving gender equality while recognizing the crucial role of boys and men in this regard, during its technical meeting on pushing forward the African Union agenda on girls' and women's education, held on 19 and 20 July 2022 in South Africa;

48. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of quality education, skills training and entrepreneurship programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas, and in this regard takes note of the launch in 2022 of the African Union Women and Youth Financial and

Economic Inclusion initiative, which seeks to enable financing opportunities and parity in employment for at least 1 million African women and youth by 2030, and the African Union 1 Million Next Level initiative, which seeks to provide opportunities for 300 million African youth by 2030 in the areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship, engagement, and health and well-being;

49. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the General Assembly to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of the quality of such access and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

50. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

51. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

52. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

53. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for sustainable development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

54. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

55. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012, which can serve as a guideline for social investment;

56. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the African Union and its New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote greater coherence in the work of the United

Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

57. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on advocacy and communication to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership, and urges the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

58. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include social dimensions of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

59. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and give due consideration to Agenda 2063 of the African Union at its sixty-second session;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolution [76/297](#) of 21 July 2022, entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its sixty-second session, an action-oriented report with recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies in regard to the social dimensions of the New Partnership, Agenda 2063 and its links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account current processes related to social development in Africa.

### **Draft resolution III**

## **Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 2022/328 of 8 June 2022, in which it decided that the priority theme of the 2023 session of the Commission for Social Development would be “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

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

*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>1</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session<sup>2</sup> constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

*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 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, and further welcoming the convening of the 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 for Social Development, on 1 December 2020,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 with a view to leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, 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 sustainable development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly 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,

*Recalling further* General Assembly 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)

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

pandemic”, and [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [74/4](#) of 15 October 2019, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly”,

*Recalling also* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling further* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>4</sup> which, inter alia, recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family, the right to work, the right to social security and the right to education, and noting the relevance of these provisions to the formulation of social policies, including family-oriented social protection policies and measures,

*Noting* that the family plays an important role in social protection and that over 4 billion people still lack social protection, that the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the reliance of persons vulnerable to poverty on their family, and recognizing the importance of responsive family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty reduction, full and productive employment, and decent work and to confront social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of social exclusion, focusing on inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender-responsive and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances and pension benefits, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected,

*Noting also* the important work undertaken by the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has led to the formulation of global indicators, including on social protection,

*Recognizing* the particular relevance of the International Labour Organization Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work<sup>5</sup> for a socially just transition towards sustainable development, and recalling General Assembly resolution [73/327](#) of 25 July 2019, by which the Assembly decided to declare 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour,

*Reaffirming* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, 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 Development<sup>6</sup> and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

*Taking note* of the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour from the fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, held in South Africa from 15 to 20 May 2022,

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<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/77/3)*, chap. VI, sect. D.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> [A/73/918](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

*Recalling* the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights<sup>7</sup> adopted by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 21/11 of 27 September 2012,<sup>8</sup> as a useful tool for Member States in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies, as appropriate, and encouraging Member States to implement the guiding principles,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on physical and mental health and the loss of life and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, increased unemployment and lack of decent work opportunities, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets, and recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

*Stressing* that at this critical moment in the decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development 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 socioeconomic crises and in the design of recovery strategies,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including by eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, that all people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through full and productive employment, decent work, and social protection systems, and to end hunger and to achieve food security as a matter of priority and to end all forms of malnutrition,

*Acknowledging* that, with less than 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down and, in some cases, even reversed the progress in achieving many of the Goals by 2030, including Goal 8, which aims to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and Goal 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries, and recognizing that those who are in vulnerable situations are the hardest hit by the pandemic,

*Noting with great concern* that the multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the number of those living in poverty, led to further impoverishment of those already living in poverty, widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment, informal employment and the number of people who have left the labour market, and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women, children, including girls, youth, persons with disabilities, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations,

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<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/21/39.

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.

*Recognizing* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, and Indigenous women and women in local communities, and their traditional knowledge in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

*Expressing its deep concern* that the progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.2 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, and that this number continues to be significant and unacceptably high, whereas the levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remain high or are increasing in a number of countries, and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns, and stressing the importance of national and global efforts to create conditions for sustainable development, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all in society, taking into account different levels of national development capacities,

*Acknowledging* that the social integration of people living in poverty and hunger should encompass access to quality education, lifelong learning opportunities, full and productive employment, and decent work, through integrated development strategies,

*Noting* that the promotion of well-being for all people over their life cycle should be at the core of any efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and is an essential component of inclusive and resilient recovery, and recognizing that building efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems is critical for guaranteeing food security and ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food by all, while addressing other interlinked challenges such as eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and increasing the resilience of livelihoods by further strengthening global partnership for sustainable development and leaving no one behind,

*Taking note* of the efforts of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session to launch the Alliance for Poverty Eradication, which is timely and meaningful and continues to serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas, policies and best practices on poverty eradication, and stressing the importance of addressing poverty, including rural poverty issues, as the rural poor might be less prepared to deal with the effects of and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and could have less access to adequate sanitation, food and nutrition, health-care services, education, the Internet, information and communications technologies, social protection, financial services and public infrastructure,

*Reaffirming* that, since the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and may, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

*Recognizing* the relevance of better understanding the multidimensional nature of development and poverty while stressing the need to use multidimensional analytical tools, including multidimensional poverty indices and risk analysis to capture the interlinked nature of deprivations and vulnerabilities as well as understand poverty dynamics and shape policy, and recognizing that appropriate national multidimensional poverty indices allow countries to better target, coordinate and monitor poverty eradication measures,

*Recognizing also* the important contribution that entrepreneurship makes to sustainable development by creating jobs and promoting decent work, driving inclusive economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and addressing economic, social and environmental challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizing that the role of entrepreneurship, including social

entrepreneurship, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in social and economic development is more critical than ever in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond,

*Recognizing further* that sport is an enabler of social development and can be used as a means to access quality education and decent work, promote healthy lifestyles and well-being, reinforce solidarity and social cohesion, fight social exclusion and stereotypes and create economic opportunities for all, which can contribute to lifting people out of poverty,

*Acknowledging* the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to promoting decent work and reducing inequality within and among countries,

*Deeply concerned* about the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, especially girls, including on their access to essential health-care services and education, acknowledging that school closures have hit the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families the hardest, that many children may never return to education as they are forced into child marriage or child labour, and that disruptions to food and health systems have contributed to a reversal in progress on maternal and child health and an increase in all forms of malnutrition, and contributed to an additional 142 million children living in income-poor households in 2020,

*Noting* the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”<sup>9</sup> to convene a world social summit in 2025, to be discussed and agreed upon by Member States, including its modalities, title, objectives, scope and possible outcomes, and emphasizing that the possible summit’s outcome should have a social development approach and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>10</sup>
2. *Acknowledges* the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>11</sup> and emphasizes that the international community, through the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits adopted by the General Assembly, has reinforced, inter alia, the urgency of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, combating inequality within and among countries, protecting the environment, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion within the United Nations development agenda, including the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>12</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>13</sup> and the New Urban Agenda;<sup>14</sup>
3. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for all by ensuring that no one would be left behind and reaching the furthest behind first, and by recognizing human rights and that the dignity of the human person is fundamental;

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<sup>9</sup> A/75/982.

<sup>10</sup> E/CN.5/2023/3.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>13</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

4. *Recognizes* the need for strengthening international cooperation to provide necessary financial assistance, technical support and capacity-building to developing countries for attaining Sustainable Development Goals related to social development, by creating full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and protect human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;

6. *Reaffirms* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, for all people everywhere, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part, supporting and complementing it;

7. *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 decent work and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

8. *Acknowledges* that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic gives additional opportunity to develop integrated long-term policy frameworks to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and that such frameworks should aim to simultaneously build a more inclusive, equitable and adaptable labour market with full and productive employment and decent work for all, enhance people's capabilities and well-being, promote acceleration actions at the national, regional and international levels and ensure sustainable livelihoods for all, and also recognizes that a multidimensional analysis of poverty and unemployment should inform these recovery strategies;

9. *Encourages* Member States to promote affordable and equitable access to basic services, in particular quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including programmes that promote equality and inclusion through the affirmation of the fundamental dignity of the human person, and health-care services, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, as well as access to affordable housing, nutrition and food, and access to employment and decent work, information and communications technology and infrastructure, through advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

10. *Recognizes and promotes* lifelong learning for all, in both formal and informal settings, and supports domestic literacy programmes, including vocational education components and non-formal education, to support employment growth, enhance the quality of jobs, foster equal opportunities and reduce inequality in the labour market;

11. *Encourages* Member States to address underlying causes of inequality by promoting a sustainable economy for the well-being of all, investing in programmes for poverty eradication, as well as in the promotion of equitable and universal access to basic services and in quality and resilient infrastructure, including health-care services; education, lifelong learning and skills training; education infrastructure; safe drinking water and sanitation; affordable housing; affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services; sustainable transport systems; and affordable access to the Internet and connectivity, including by working to ensure that service delivery is aimed at progressively reaching universal access, with particular attention given to the needs of those in vulnerable situations;

12. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national

priorities relating to family-oriented policies 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;

13. *Invites* Governments to undertake the necessary adaptations to policies and regulations to support decent work and employment growth, foster equal opportunities and reduce inequalities and discrimination in the labour market, by enhancing effective labour market institutions, by enabling adequate remuneration through measures such as statutory or negotiated minimum wages, equal pay for work of equal value, employment protection legislation and employment law, and their effective implementation so that all workers enjoy labour rights;

14. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services;

15. *Stresses* the importance of developing policies to expand work opportunities and labour productivity in both rural and urban sectors by achieving and recovering inclusive economic growth, investing in human resource development through ongoing training and skills development for the new forms of work, promoting technologies that generate productive employment and decent work, and encouraging entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises;

16. *Encourages* Governments to incorporate the provision of digital competencies, including but not limited to entrepreneurship and complementary soft skills, in formal education curricula and lifelong learning initiatives to address the implications of fundamental changes in the digital economy and industry 4.0 for labour markets;

17. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting labour market policies that strengthen institutions and provide adequate labour protection to all workers, especially the most disadvantaged, including through social dialogue and minimum wage policies, while taking into account the role of workers' and employers' organizations, as applicable, as part of policies to boost income growth for the vast majority of workers, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country;

18. *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;

19. *Encourages* Member States to accelerate efforts to promote the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors through integrated strategies that comprise nuanced and differentiated measures for decent work and reliable social protection, including by leveraging e-formalization policies and supporting new and growing sectors such as the care economy, sustainable economy and digital economy to absorb informal workers, and to establish appropriate interventions that can strengthen the capacity of employers and workers to comply with existing standards and regulations of paying taxes and making social security contributions in ways and intervals tailored to the income patterns of informal and rural economy workers, by supporting the adaptation or simplification of regulations and procedures, establishing incentives to formalize and strengthening government oversight and capacity-building of tax and labour inspection services and social security;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to establish well-designed programmes that are aimed at ensuring equal opportunities and treatment in the world of work and facilitating and supporting the inclusion in the labour market of those in vulnerable situations, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, members of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and people living with HIV, including by strengthening active labour market policies and social protection systems;

21. *Urges* Member States to provide specific programmes and mobilize financial resources and technologies to support women to return to economic activity, including access to decent work, training and financial services, strengthening their economic empowerment and autonomy, and to protect and promote the right to work and rights at work of all women, facilitate women's full and equal participation in the labour market and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors and at all levels;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to protect labour rights, promote decent work and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment, and recognizes that the positive contribution of women migrant workers has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of their labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work;

23. *Urges* Member States to show greater solidarity, especially during times of emergency, to strengthen international cooperation to enhance the protection, well-being, voluntary and safe return and effective reintegration into labour markets of migrant workers, and to ensure that in combating and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic no one is left behind;

24. *Encourages* Member States to implement policies that ensure women's economic empowerment by supporting the full and productive participation of women in the labour market, including women with disabilities, and those living in poverty and female heads of household, and to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, the equal sharing of responsibilities between parents, access to childcare facilities, work-family balance, including, inter alia, while caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and by promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure non-discrimination, racial and cultural diversity and inclusion, and equity by developing and implementing an integrated and comprehensive approach through the entire life course, by removing barriers that prevent women from accessing, remaining and progressing in the labour market, such as gender stereotypes, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, discriminatory laws and practices and the unfair division of unpaid care work, by closing gender pay and pension gaps and by further realizing equal pay for equal work, including care work;

26. *Highlights* the importance of developing and implementing policies and programmes to support entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth, and emphasizes that the role of entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in social and economic development is more critical than ever in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond;

27. *Encourages* Member States to undertake the necessary adaptations to foster an enabling business environment for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work and decent job creation, as well as

entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable enterprises, through the enhancement of international cooperation and partnership with the private sector, including improving access to credit, particularly for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and adopt public policies to combat unnecessary bureaucracy and corruption, as well as illicit financial flows, and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery;

28. *Also encourages* Member States to enact family-oriented and gender-responsive policies that support the creation of decent jobs in new, sustainable and growing sectors, including the sustainable economy, digital economy, care economy and, as appropriate, social and solidarity economy, through, inter alia, appropriate investments in flexible and accessible skills and qualification development policies designed with the support of social partners that are tailored to the needs of these new sectors, policies that promote an environmentally sustainable and digitally empowered just transition that is fair and inclusive, legislative frameworks that determine the employment status of digital platform workers and protect their rights, and policies that ensure their effective implementation;

29. *Further encourages* Member States to respect, promote and realize the right to work and to prevent and eliminate unequal division of domestic care, violence, abuse and sexual harassment, while recognizing that violence and harassment are a threat to equal opportunities, are unacceptable and incompatible with decent work and may prevent women from accessing, remaining and advancing in the labour market;

30. *Acknowledges* that the exacerbation of poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in child labour, and urges Member States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and ensure the elimination of child labour in all its forms, by 2025 at the latest;

31. *Recognizes* that nationally appropriate universal social protection systems for all address multiple, often interrelated and complex causes of poverty and inequality by easing the burden of certain expenditure during periods of unemployment, contributing to health-related goals, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and decent work, and facilitating the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons;

32. *Also recognizes* that nationally appropriate social protection systems make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and hunger, and that promoting universal access to social services and providing nationally appropriate social protection floors can contribute to reducing inequality and poverty, addressing social exclusion and promoting inclusive economic growth, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), of the International Labour Organization;

33. *Encourages* Member States to invest in building national social protection systems that are, as appropriate, universal, risk-informed, gender-responsive and family-oriented, that combine social insurance and non-contributory (tax-financed) schemes, to ensure that everyone has access to comprehensive, adequate, progressive and sustainable social protection over the life course, through design and implementation features that support the inclusion of those in vulnerable situations who are often left out of social protection systems (including unpaid caregivers, the “missing middle” and informal workers), and contribute to just structural transformations by responding to social protection needs, including those stemming from the growth of the sustainable economy and the digital economy, and enable the increased responsiveness of programmes to disasters caused by hazards of all kinds, including through public and private investment in disaster risk reduction;

34. *Encourages* Member States, when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes for social development, to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout this process;

35. *Recognizes* the important role that families can play in combating social exclusion, and highlights the importance of investing in inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies and programmes in areas such as education, training, decent work, work-family balance, health-care services, social services, intergenerational relationships and solidarity and targeted cash transfers for vulnerable families, in order to reduce inequality and promote the well-being of all persons of all ages, as well as to contribute to better outcomes for children and other vulnerable family members in vulnerable situations and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

36. *Acknowledges* the vital role that sustainable social protection systems play in the COVID-19 pandemic response, and encourages Member States to ensure that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic provides a policy window for the countries concerned to address their significant gaps in social protection coverage by making progress towards universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems, by including, in accordance with their national legislations, basic income, child benefits, maternity benefits, sickness benefits, disability benefits, unemployment benefits and old-age pension, and that these social protection systems should identify and close coverage gaps, especially for those who are in vulnerable situations, including informal workers, migrants and unpaid carers;

37. *Encourages* Member States to provide universal age-, disability-, gender-responsive and family-oriented social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for people and families in vulnerable situations, such as when 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 essential services, high-quality education and health-care services;

38. *Stresses* the need to better coordinate social protection policies and measures with poverty reduction programmes and other social policies to avoid excluding people in informal or precarious jobs, and recognizes the need to promote transitions towards the formal economy, expanding and upgrading existing social assistance programmes by increasing benefit level and coverage to informal workers, including seasonal and casual labourers in rural areas;

39. *Encourages* Member States to consider supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition, including through the promotion of decent work and sustainable and universal social protection systems;

40. *Also encourages* Member States to develop long-term, risk-informed, inclusive and prevention-oriented social development recovery plans that will improve people's capacities and well-being, through investing in social services and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including basic school infrastructure, and health-care services, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable housing, ensuring decent employment, adequate social protection coverage and affordable and reliable digital technology, Internet access and connectivity;

41. *Further encourages* Member States to facilitate the effective and meaningful participation and empowerment of those in vulnerable situations, including those most affected by the pandemic, those working in the informal economy and those living in poverty, in the design, implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 recovery plans;

42. *Urges* Member States to address multiple causes of poverty, hunger and inequality, through decent work and job creation; increasing resilience; improving coherence between social protection, food security and nutrition policies; providing targeted cash transfers; promoting digital and financial literacy and inclusion; ensuring equal opportunities and access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems; ensuring access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities without discrimination; combating all forms of discrimination; empowering all people and facilitating the social inclusion and participation of those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and prioritizing investment in early childhood education, nutrition and care to break intergenerational poverty;

43. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, land degradation, desertification, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, underlines the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels, including through mitigation and adaptation efforts, to build resilience that can contribute to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and ending hunger;

44. *Recognizes* the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and social protection floors, for those in need and those in vulnerable situations, inter alia, food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and affordable housing, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

45. *Urges* Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by guaranteeing equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable situations, including by mainstreaming a gender perspective in labour market participation, division of care work and in food security programmes, especially for those women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, considering that the empowerment of women and girls in diverse situations and conditions will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

46. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt policies, programmes and other 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;

47. *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;

48. *Also encourages* Member States to facilitate the digital and financial literacy and inclusion of women and their equal access to formal financial services, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes; integrate a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, encourage financial institutions, such as commercial banks, development banks, agricultural banks, microfinance institutions, mobile network operators, agent networks, cooperatives, postal banks and savings banks, to provide access to financial products, services and information to women and encourage the use of innovative tools and platforms, including online and mobile banking;

49. *Calls upon* Member States to prevent the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children by mitigating the damaging socioeconomic impacts, including by ensuring the continuity of child-centred services and policies on an equal and attainable access basis, upholding the right of the child to quality education, including early childhood education, on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination and supporting education that is inclusive, equitable and accessible by implementing appropriate measures to ensure supporting families in the return of children, particularly girls and children in vulnerable situations, to school, when it is safe to do so, and access to opportunities to catch up on lost learning and while in confinement, to support school systems, teachers and families in ensuring a reliable source of daily nutrition and using accessible and inclusive distance-learning solutions to close the digital divides, while protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation, online and offline, and recalling that no child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy and family;

50. *Recognizes* that domestic resources mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership and supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

51. *Reaffirms* 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;

52. *Also reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including highly indebted poor countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing Member States and middle-income countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

53. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, and encourages the international community, including the private sector and relevant civil society actors, to provide and mobilize financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and to supply expertise from all sources, as available;

54. *Encourages* developed countries to implement their official development assistance 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 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

55. *Calls upon* the international community to support countries to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors to engage further on the implementation of existing commitments on technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

56. *Welcomes* the contributions of South-South cooperation to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and reaffirms that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and commits itself to strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

57. *Takes note* of the *World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind in an Ageing World*, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to provide information that can help Member States to prepare for the challenges that ageing poses to meeting social protection obligations, sustaining fiscal systems and strengthening social stability, especially in countries that are still developing and countries with ageing populations;

58. *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;

59. *Encourages* the international community to intensify development cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships, to support countries, especially developing countries, upon their request, in building their national capacity for science, technology and innovation for social development, as well as to support research networks that reach across borders, institutions and disciplines;

60. *Calls upon* the international community to strengthen multilateral cooperation, by mobilizing resources for an inclusive recovery and making use of special drawing rights and its voluntary channelling allocation to countries most in need, and recognizes the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

61. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to continue to promote the exchange of information and good practices on programmes, policies and measures that successfully reduce inequality in all its dimensions;

62. *Invites* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, upon their request, in their pursuit of inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all, and facilitate international cooperation to create full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the common future of present and coming generations.

## **Draft resolution IV**

### **Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,<sup>1</sup> the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [77/190](#) of 15 December 2022 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution [51/4](#) of 6 October 2022<sup>2</sup> and previous Human Rights Council resolutions on ageing,

*Recalling further* that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Bearing in mind* that the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,<sup>3</sup> decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>4</sup> which was based on the results of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Acknowledging* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and its contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Acknowledging also* the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, appointed by the Human Rights Council, on the assessment of the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>5</sup> which includes several aspirational and global targets that are specific to older persons, stressing the importance of ensuring 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, and recognizing the need to mainstream ageing in development planning, policies, social protection schemes and programmes,

*Noting* that 2027 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, and acknowledging the importance of the World Assembly to the realization of a society for all ages,

*Recalling* the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) in General Assembly resolution [75/131](#) of 14 December 2020, and recognizing the synergies between the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6 (E/2004/26)*, chap. I, sect. E.

<sup>4</sup> [E/CN.5/2023/6](#) and [E/CN.5/2023/6/Corr.1](#).

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

*Noting* that, by 2050, life expectancy at birth is projected to reach 77.2 years worldwide, that the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to be more than three times the number of children under age 5 and about two thirds higher than the number of youth worldwide, 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,

*Recognizing* population ageing as one of the major trends that are likely to shape the prospects for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing also that implementing the priority directions and recommendations for action of the Madrid Plan of Action and the relevant regional implementation strategies are now more vital than ever to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to efforts to leave no one behind, particularly older persons,

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

*Stressing* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in its different forms and ways, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, and that good practices related to ageing in each society should be appreciated regardless of their development status,

*Recognizing* the steps taken in the implementation of Madrid Plan of Action by Member States, as well as relevant United Nations mechanisms, such as the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions,

*Recognizing also* that it is important for Member States to take concrete measures, in accordance with national legislation and consistent with applicable international law, to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, consistent with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>6</sup> and to raise awareness in this area,

*Recognizing further* the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes concerning older persons in order to take into account the specific needs and experiences of older women and men,

*Recognizing* the important role of 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 of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledging the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, including the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia conference for the fourth regional review of the Madrid International Plan of Action, held in Beirut on 1 and 2 June 2022; the fifth Economic Commission for Europe Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in Rome on 16 and 17 June 2022; the fourth Africa regional review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13 July 2022; the Asia-Pacific intergovernmental meeting on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid

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<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok and virtually from 29 June to 1 July 2022; and the fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 13 to 15 December 2022, 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,

1. *Recognizes* the successful conclusion of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and its results at the international, regional and national levels, which highlighted that great disparities exist among and within regions in the rate of implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, that issues such as the eradication of poverty, decent work, social protection systems, economic autonomy and support in conflict or humanitarian emergencies, access to health-care and long-term care services and care work need to be addressed; and that equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons in society, including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, to climate change, migration and displacement, as well as addressing the digital gap that currently affects many older persons, are some of the emerging issues that the international community needs to act upon;

2. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen further the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and use it as a tool for building an inclusive society with intergenerational solidarity in which older persons participate fully and without any kind of discrimination and on the basis of equality in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to fully utilize the potential of older persons, recognizing intergenerational partnerships and solidarity and the essential contribution that older persons continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if adequate guarantees are in place, and encourages Member States to create an enabling environment for the equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons in political, social, economic and cultural life, while taking into account the diversity of situation of older persons and responding to population ageing as well as to multiple forms of discrimination resulting from ageism and other inequalities throughout the life course;

4. *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, nutrition, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen national coordinating bodies or mechanisms, as appropriate, that govern matters relating to ageing and older persons, in order to, inter alia, accelerate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal, endowing them with adequate powers, functions and resources in order to improve the evaluation and monitoring of the situation of older persons, and to strengthen the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes sensitive to their needs;

6. *Expresses concern* that the growing share of older persons in the population presents a significant additional risk of vulnerability to economic insecurity and poverty and that people living in areas where poverty is endemic, and having endured a life of poverty and deprivation, are often at greater risk of slipping deeper into poverty in their older age;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to improve the protection of older persons, particularly older women and older persons with disabilities, including mental impairments, or in situations of dependency, from all forms of violence and abuse, whether it is physical, psychological, sexual, gender-based or economic, as well as from neglect;

8. *Encourages* Member States to accelerate their efforts to mainstream ageing into their policy agendas and legislation, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, the realization of all human rights for older persons, the promotion of social integration and the prevention and elimination of ageism and age discrimination against older persons, including by highlighting a gender perspective, bearing in mind that intergenerational solidarity is a fundamental prerequisite for social cohesion and public welfare, and contributes to equity and sustainable development among present and future generations;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to invest in strategies and activities and involving all actors of society to promote a healthy lifestyle for all over the life course by encouraging and facilitating physical activity, healthy nutrition, and protective and preventive health interventions, and strengthening mental health and well-being, particularly among older persons;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote the understanding of ageing as an issue of concern to society as a whole, through lifelong education at all levels, in order to combat ageism and discrimination against older persons, taking into account the gender dimension, and to link ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches such as economic empowerment and autonomy, participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to consider setting benchmarks for action at the national level based on the successes and good practices, shortcomings and future priorities identified in their national and regional levels of review and appraisal to accelerate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, bearing in mind the specific needs and concerns of older persons, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, taking measures to enable the equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons, in particular older women, as well as strengthening the collection of quality data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in the national context with no upper age limit, the management of qualitative information, monitoring and evaluation of the situation of older persons, research, analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures to promote and protect the rights of older persons and measures aimed at providing economic and social security and health care, while considering the Madrid Plan of Action and mainstreaming a gender perspective, the equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives, and ageing with dignity;

14. *Encourages* Member States to formulate and implement sustainable, inclusive and equitable pension policies and seek to improve the effectiveness of their social protection and security systems, taking into consideration that it is necessary to promote decent work, which will subsequently allow for decent retirement, as well

as to prevent old-age poverty, including by recognizing unpaid care work over the life course in pension policies;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to promote and facilitate the participation of older persons in the labour market as long as they want to work and are able to do so, and improve active and inclusive labour market policies and social protection systems that respond to an ageing workforce, to promote intergenerational dialogue in the workplace, to enhance skills development and family-friendly working arrangements, and to provide healthy, safe and accessible workplaces;

16. *Further encourages* Member States to promote and strengthen the estimation of the caregiving contribution and other activities of older persons to the economy in national accounts, including recognition of unpaid care for family members, in particular by older women, and to ensure that research on national accounts inform policymaking;

17. *Encourages* Member States to address the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, including affordable, accessible, quality and integrated long-term care and support services as well as palliative care, including through expanding educational opportunities for all health professionals working with older persons, and recognizes that the incidence and impacts of non-communicable diseases and disability in older age can be largely prevented or reduced with an approach that incorporates evidence-based, affordable, cost-effective, population-wide and multisectoral interventions over the life course;

18. *Also encourages* Member States to harness scientific research and expertise and realize the potential of information and communications technologies, including new technologies, assistive technologies, as well as rapid technological change, to focus on, inter alia, the individual, social, educational and health implications of ageing, in particular in developing countries, and to provide universal and affordable access to and use of these technologies to close all digital divides that can be experienced by older persons, including between and within countries, the rural-urban digital divide, the gender digital divide, and between youth and older persons;

19. *Further encourages* Member States to promote digital literacy with a special focus on enhancing the digital skills and competencies of older persons, including through digital training and assistance, without discrimination of any kind, including socioeconomic status, education level, race and/or ethnicity, gender and disability as well as language barriers, by taking into account national and regional contexts, in order to promote the digital inclusion of older persons;

20. *Invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, such as organizations of older persons and academia, and with the private sector in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing, and encourages Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

21. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to accelerate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations trust fund for ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

22. *Invites* Member States as well as other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and

Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

23. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including through the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, invites Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, their cooperation with the regional commissions to accelerate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the regional commissions on ageing to enable them to enhance their regional implementation activities;

24. *Requests* the regional commissions to continue to facilitate, including through their intergovernmental bodies, the accelerated implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action based on the priorities identified in the outcomes of the regional review and appraisal exercises, to ensure that ageing is mainstreamed into policy documents and as a modality for the full, equal, effective and meaningful inclusion and active participation of persons of all ages in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

25. *Invites* its functional commissions, within their mandates, to consider mainstreaming ageing issues, inter alia, by including ageing and the concerns of older persons in the emerging issues under their programmes of work, as appropriate, bearing in mind the importance of improving United Nations coordination and strengthening capacity-building, where needed, in order to improve the situation of older persons;

26. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to give greater priority, within their respective mandates and using existing coordination mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies, including with the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that current and future generations of older persons are full participants in the development process, including organizations of older persons, and are not denied the opportunity to share its benefits;

27. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation, inter alia, cooperation among Member States, to support national efforts, upon request, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, and to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

28. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts, upon request, and to provide funding for research and the collection of data disaggregated by age, in addition to data disaggregated by sex and disability, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

29. *Encourages* the international community to develop comparable, disaggregated and universal datasets of ageing to enhance the quality of data-driven

policies and to make adequate and reliable comparisons related to the demographic structures of societies;

30. *Decides* to consider the preparations for and observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing at its sixty-third session, within the modalities of the fifth review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the outcomes of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in particular the relationship between development, social policy and the human rights of older persons to, inter alia, better inform the future work of relevant United Nations entities and bodies, including the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

32. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-third session, in 2025, a report on the modalities for the fifth review and appraisal of Madrid International Plan of Action and the implementation of the present resolution.

## **B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council**

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

### **Draft decision I**

#### **Report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixty-first session;<sup>1</sup>

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

#### **Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

##### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

- (a) Priority theme: Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication

##### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme

- (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
  - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;<sup>2</sup>
  - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
  - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
  - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 6 (E/2023/26).*

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [68/3](#).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

(c) Emerging issues: *(to be determined)*.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-second session.

## **C. Decisions calling for action by the Council**

3. Pursuant to the following decision, adopted by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council is requested to confirm the nomination of four candidates to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

### **Decision 61/101**

#### **Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development**

4. The Commission decided to nominate Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim, Ha-Joon Chang, and Imraan Valodia as members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for an additional two-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2025. The Commission also decided to nominate Naila Kabeer to serve on the Board of the Institute for a four-year term beginning after confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and on a date no sooner than on 1 July 2023 and expiring on 30 June 2027.

## D. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

5. The following resolution adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council:

### **Resolution 61/1 Policies and programmes involving youth**

*The Commission for Social Development,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [50/81](#) of 14 December 1995 and resolution [62/126](#) of 18 December 2007, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, as contained in the annexes thereto, and acknowledging that the Programme of Action provides Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the situation of youth,

*Recalling also* the outcomes of 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,

*Recalling further* the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting* the inputs from recent relevant conferences, forums and global initiatives relating to youth at the international, regional and subregional levels, inter alia, the four editions of the World Youth Forum, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2017, November 2018, December 2019 and January 2022,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which, for the first time, the Assembly recognized children and youth as agents of change,

*Reiterating* that all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

*Stressing* that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of all of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

*Recalling* the proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>3</sup> to assist Member States in assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action and thus the evolution of the situation of youth,

*Taking note* of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, in particular its focus on youth, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

<sup>1</sup> [A/53/378](#), annex I.

<sup>2</sup> [A/73/949](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> [E/CN.5/2013/8](#).

*Emphasizing* the important role that the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth has played in addressing the needs of youth, as well as, inter alia, in acting as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, as well as the launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact,

*Noting* the need for young people to have digital skills for the labour market as highlighted, among others, in the Youth Forum Declaration presented at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,<sup>4</sup>

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

*Acknowledging* the important contributions made by the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, held annually, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing that the youth forum serves as a platform for young people to share their vision and contribute to, inter alia, the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

*Acknowledging also* the positive contribution of youth, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society, as a way of contributing to a progressively fairer distribution of opportunities for youth, which will constitute a step forward to economic development, social justice, social integration and equity,

*Recognizing* that, while young people represent almost one quarter of the online population,<sup>5</sup> 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, with access to educational resources online and necessary digital tools,

*Stressing* that policies that enhance digital and technical skills and opportunities for young people are an important area of investment for Governments, and that the inclusive and effective engagement of youth, including through volunteerism and participation in relevant decision-making processes, is critical in tailoring the most effective response, according to the specific needs of all young people, and recognizing that multisectoral investments in young people could yield a triple dividend ensuring health, well-being and resilience through their life course,

*Stressing also* that high rates of youth unemployment persist, as do high rates of underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment, leaving many young people in situations of working poverty or in jobs that have limited access to social protection and that do not provide adequate labour standards,

*Emphasizing* that education, both formal and non-formal, and training promote equity and social inclusion, and recalling in that sense 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 help

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<sup>4</sup> TD/523.

<sup>5</sup> E/CN.5/2021/3, para. 55.

ensure, by 2030, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy, as well as to substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted youth, including young women and girls, and has accelerated digital divides and existing inequalities in learning opportunities and access to education, including quality education, and acknowledging that the post-pandemic recovery is an opportunity to promote a socially just transition to sustainable development,

*Recognizing also* the benefits of digital technologies in easing the school-to-work transition and boosting youth employment and entrepreneurship,

*Acknowledging* the important link between migration and development, recognizing that migration brings both opportunities and challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants and to the global community, and recognizing the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants effectively, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, young people and children,

*Recognizing* the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

*Stressing* that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities and with other regional and international organizations working on youth contribute to making the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>6</sup>
2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth<sup>7</sup> lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies, programmes and action plans, including for those who are poor, vulnerable or marginalized, and to address all aspects of youth development, in line with the World Programme of Action and all the internationally agreed development frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>8</sup>
3. *Calls upon* Member States to continue the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its 15 interrelated priority areas, as a policy framework with practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, while taking into account the views of youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations as part of the effective participation of youth in society;
4. *Also calls upon* Member States to promote gender equality and the empowerment of young women and girls and the full realization of all human rights on an equal footing with young men and boys;
5. *Further calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General<sup>9</sup> for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, paying particular attention to young women and girls and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, including Indigenous youth, youth in

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<sup>6</sup> E/CN.5/2023/5.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>9</sup> E/CN.5/2019/5.

rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to collect, on a continuing and voluntary basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated, inter alia, by age and sex, to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard encourages Member States to engage youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the process of assessing progress and evaluating youth policies;

7. *Urges* Member States to ensure that youth issues are adequately addressed in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and underlines the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in its implementation;

8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach while implementing all relevant agreed frameworks related to youth, including the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>10</sup> in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *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 Charter of the United Nations and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage and promote youth-led and youth-focused organizations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities;

11. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in relevant decision-making processes at all levels, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities, including those related to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements in efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social inclusion, and in this regard stresses the importance of promoting access to health-care services, nationally owned social protection and social services as an important instrument for empowering youth;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, in this context, to address the social aspects of youth development with the adoption and/or strengthening of appropriate policies, including fiscal, employment and labour-market policies, and to establish nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors;

14. *Also calls upon* Member States to support the inclusion of young people in the labour market as part of the efforts to build inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies, while responding to new social protection needs, by ensuring equal access to education and skills training, including apprenticeship training, enhancing effective labour market institutions and ensuring adequate statutory or negotiated minimum

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<sup>10</sup> *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.

wages, employment protection legislation and the promotion of collective bargaining and social dialogue;

15. *Urges* Member States and all stakeholders to take concerted action to close the digital divides, including the youth digital divide, promote digital inclusion and the responsible use of information and communications technologies, prevent their use for criminal purposes and bridge the gender gap in digital access and competences, by taking into account national and regional context and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability and skills, as well as support more comprehensively those countries that are trailing in the digital economy in order to reduce the digital divides, strengthen the international enabling environment for value creation and build capacities in both the private and public sectors;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to 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;

17. *Also calls upon* Member States to expand digital public goods, build digital literacy skills through an approach that respects human rights, namely by bridging the digital divides, take measures to protect the health of young people on digital platforms, including policies and programmes to promote and improve their mental health, and provide targeted assistance to those facing accessibility challenges, including low-income families and persons with disabilities;

18. *Recalls* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in assessing information and in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies, extracurricular activities and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant 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 action necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities;

19. *Recognizes* that substantial digital divides and data inequalities exist in all regions, and between developed and developing countries, and that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, and urges Member States to take concerted action to further digital governance and economy, scientific research, emerging technologies and new data sources and to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems, under the leadership of national statistical offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster, as well as in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the increased collaboration among United Nations entities on youth through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon United Nations entities to develop additional measures to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development and well-being, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in particular youth-led and youth-focused organizations;

21. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, and takes note of its function, inter alia, to support ongoing efforts towards the mobilization of financial and technical support and investment to promote and upscale inclusive,

equitable and quality education and training, skills development and capacity-building and bridging the digital divides, in tandem with job creation, for youth and creating an enabling environment for harnessing their talents and abilities to contribute to their societies;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to bring the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization, inter alia, by considering appointing special representatives, envoys or advisers, while working closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media, to empower and strengthen 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;

23. *Encourages* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance and non-discrimination, and, inter alia, to consider establishing a national youth delegate programme, and emphasizes that youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

24. *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 and gender balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

25. *Encourages* the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media, as appropriate, by empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside the United Nations system;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-third session a comprehensive report, taking into consideration the priority theme of that session, on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress on the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including the linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in consultation with Member States, as well as with the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, including the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

## Chapter II

### **Organizational matters: future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development**

6. At its 13th meeting, on 15 February 2023, the Commission considered the review of its methods of work under agenda item 2.

#### **Action taken by the Commission**

7. At its 13th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution [E/CN.5/2023/L.3](#), submitted by the Vice-Chair (Israel) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A statement was also made by the observer for Mexico.

## Chapter III

### **Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**

9. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 13th meetings, on 6 to 13 and 15 February 2023. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([E/CN.5/2023/2](#));

(b) Report of Secretary-General on creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.5/2023/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.5/2023/4](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth ([E/CN.5/2023/5](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 ([E/CN.5/2023/6](#) and Corr.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family ([A/78/61-E/2023/7](#));

(g) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council ([E/CN.5/2023/NGO/1-59](#)).

10. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 February, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

#### **Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole**

##### **Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

11. At the 13th meeting, on 15 February, the representative of Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" ([E/CN.5/2023/L.5](#)). Subsequently, Kazakhstan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution [E/CN.5/2023/L.5](#) and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution II).

13. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America. A statement was also made by the observer for Senegal.

**A. Priority theme: creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

14. The Commission considered sub-item 3 (a) at its 2nd to 5th and 8th to 13th meetings, on 6 to 7 and 9 to 15 February, and held a general discussion on sub-item 3 (a) and sub-item 3 (b) (Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups) at its 2nd, 5th and 10th to 12th meetings, on 6, 7, 10 and 13 February 2023.

15. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 February, the Commission began its general discussion of sub-items 3 (a) and (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Colombia (on behalf of the LGBTI Core Group), the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ukraine and Qatar, as well as by the observers for Sweden (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)), Chile (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons), Egypt (pre-recorded), Peru and Honduras.

16. At its 5th meeting, on 7 February, the Commission resumed its general discussion of sub-items 3 (a) and (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Morocco (pre-recorded), Portugal, Finland, Zambia, Argentina, the Russian Federation (pre-recorded), Costa Rica, Ethiopia and Türkiye, as well as by the observers for Belarus (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family), Zimbabwe, Sweden, Guyana (pre-recorded), Liberia (pre-recorded), Cameroon, the United Arab Emirates (pre-recorded), Kenya, Belarus (pre-recorded), Panama (pre-recorded), the Philippines, Jordan, India and Thailand.

17. At its 10th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission resumed its general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of Guinea, Paraguay, Iraq, China, Luxembourg (in-person statement, followed by a pre-recorded statement), Japan, Brazil, Cuba, Austria and Djibouti, as well as by the observers for the Sudan (pre-recorded), Botswana, Slovenia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic (pre-recorded), Germany, Maldives, Greece, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Pakistan, Italy (in-person statement, followed by a pre-recorded statement), Serbia, Mongolia and Sri Lanka.

18. At its 11th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission resumed its general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of Israel, Switzerland (in-person statement, followed by a pre-recorded statement), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria and the Republic of Korea, as well as by the observers for Mexico, Kuwait, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Algeria, Malaysia, Nepal, Yemen, Malta, Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Canada, Georgia, Trinidad and Tobago, Cyprus, Hungary (in-person statement, followed by a pre-recorded statement), Viet Nam, Monaco, Tunisia and Malawi.

19. At its 12th meeting, also on 13 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of Poland, Colombia, South Africa, the United States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as by the observers for Indonesia, El Salvador, Romania, Côte d'Ivoire, Uruguay, Haiti, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Kazakhstan. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Organization for Migration and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

21. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Appui solidaire pour le renforcement de l'aide au développement, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, C-Fam, Inc., Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, EUROGEO, FEMM Foundation, Grace Leadership Foundation, Inc., Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loreto Generalate, International Association of Independent Journalists, International Federation for Family Development, International Federation on Ageing, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Irene Menakaya School Onitsha, Life Project 4 Youth, Make Mothers Matter, Red Dot Foundation, Miss CARICOM Int'l Foundation CIP, Inc., Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Soroptimist International, Blue Tree Foundation, UNANIMA International, World Organization for Early Childhood Education, World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises, World Youth Alliance and Congregation of the Mission.

#### **Panel discussions**

22. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 February, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme of “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, moderated by the Undersecretary for Employment and Human Resources Development in the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines, Carmela Torres. Following the keynote address by the Assistant Director-General of the Governance, Rights and Dialogue Cluster of the International Labour Organization, Manuela Tomei, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare of Guatemala, Rafael Eugenio Rodríguez Pellecer; Professor of financial law at the University of Luxembourg, Dirk Andreas Zetzsche; Senior Economist at the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund, Céline Thévenot; Director of the Equality Department of the International Trade Union Confederation, Paola Simonetti; and the Executive Director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Rose Ngugi (via video link). During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representative of Portugal, as well as by the observers for Peru, Zimbabwe and Malaysia. At the same meeting, the observer for the European Union made a statement. The panellists responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives and observers. The Chair (Qatar) made a closing statement.

#### **Ministerial forum on the priority theme**

23. At its 4th meeting, on 7 February, the Commission held a ministerial forum on the priority theme under sub-item 3 (a), moderated by the Chair of the Commission (Qatar). Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Hanna Sarkkinen; the Minister for Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro, Admir Adrović; the Minister of Social Development and Family of Qatar, Mariam bint Ali bin Nasser al Misnad; the Minister for Community Development and Social Services and Member of Parliament of Zambia, Doreen Sefuke Mwamba; the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Costa Rica, Christian Guillermet-Fernández; the Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan, Anar Karimov; and the Undersecretary for Employment and Human Resources Development at the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines, Carmela Torres. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Türkiye and Ukraine, as well as by the observer for Peru. The panellists responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives and observer.

24. At its 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme under sub-item 3 (a), at which the Chair (Qatar) made a statement. The interactive dialogue was moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who made a statement. Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Gilbert Houngbo (pre-recorded video); the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, Olga Algayerova (pre-recorded video); the Director of the Population and Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Simone Cecchini; the Director of the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Srinivas Tata; and the Senior Social Policy Advisor, Gender and Poverty, of the Social Policy Division at the Economic Commission for Africa, Jalal Abdel-Latif (via video link). During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representative of Cuba, as well as by the observers for Zimbabwe and Senegal. The panellists responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representative and observers. The Vice-Chair (Israel) made a closing statement.

25. At its 9th meeting, also on 9 February, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme under sub-item 3 (a), moderated by the Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development, Jean Quinn, who made a statement. Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Human Resource Development at the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines, Paul Vincent W. Añover; the General Director of International Relations and Institutional Communication of the National Council of Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina, Matías Sotomayor; the International Projects Manager in the Office of the Minister of Social Development and Family of Qatar, Maryam Abdulla al-Thani; and the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of ImInclusive Pakistan, Hafsa Qadeer. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Morocco and Guinea, as well as by the observer for Malaysia. At the same meeting, the representative of the following NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the discussion: the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. The panellists responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives and observer. The Vice-Chair (North Macedonia) made a closing statement.

### **Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)**

26. At its 13th meeting, on 15 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (E/CN.5/2023/L.7), submitted by the Chair (Qatar) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution III).

27. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Djibouti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States and Libya, as well as by the observers for Mexico, Malaysia, Senegal, Hungary, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mauritania. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

## **B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups**

28. The Commission considered sub-item 3 (b) at its 2nd, 5th to 6th and 10th to 13th meetings, on 6 to 8, 10, 13 and 15 February, and held a general discussion of the sub-item with sub-item 3 (a) (Priority theme: addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies) at its 2nd, 5th and 10th to 12th meetings, on 6, 7, 10 and 13 February. (For a discussion of the general discussion of the items, see chap. III.A, paras. 9–17.)

### **High-level panel discussion on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

29. At its 6th meeting, on 8 February, the Commission held a High-level panel discussion on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing under sub-item 3 (b). After an opening statement by the Chair (Qatar), the discussion was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Costa Rica). Following the keynote address by the Senior Advisor at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Alexandre Sidorenko, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Minister for Gender and Social Affairs of the Maldives and Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Review and Appraisal, Aishath Mohamed Didi; the Secretary-General of the Council of Family Affairs in Jordan, Mohammed Meqdady; the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, Paula Narváz Ojeda; the Director-General of the National Senior Citizens Centre in Nigeria, Emem Omokaro; the Coordinator at the Department of Family Policies at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy and Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Alfredo Ferrante; a representative of HelpAge International, Carole Osero-Ageng'o; and a board member of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, Heidrun Mollenkopf. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Zambia, Türkiye, Portugal, Argentina, Cuba, Finland, Morocco, and Ukraine, as well as by the observers for Kenya, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Canada, Spain and Malaysia. A statement was also made by the observers of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Federation on Ageing, AARP, People Empowering People, Africa and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. The panellists responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives and observers. The Vice-Chair (Costa Rica) made a closing statement.

### **Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)**

30. At its 13th meeting, on 15 February, the representative of Kazakhstan introduced a draft resolution entitled “Policies and programmes involving youth” (E/CN.5/2023/L.4), on behalf of Armenia,<sup>1</sup> Brazil, Cabo Verde,<sup>1</sup> Cyprus,<sup>1</sup> Kazakhstan,<sup>1</sup> Luxembourg, Portugal and Senegal.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia,

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

31. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. 1.D, resolution [61/1](#)).

32. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and by the observers for Hungary and Malaysia.

33. Also at its 13th meeting on 15 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002” ([E/CN.5/2023/L.6](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair (Costa Rica) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution III).

34. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of the Russian Federation and by the observer for Senegal.

### **C. Emerging issues: addressing the social impacts of multi-faceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

#### **Panel discussion**

35. At its 7th meeting, on 8 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on emerging issues, entitled “Addressing the social impacts of multi-faceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, under sub-item 3 (c), at which the Chair (Qatar) made an opening statement. The panel discussion was moderated by the Minister at for Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Hanna Sarkkinen, who made a statement. Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Head of the Advisory Cabinet Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, Luciana Tito; the Director of Development Cooperation Policy at Hellenic Aid of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Eleni Nikolaidou; the International Projects Manager at the Ministry of Social Development and Family of Qatar, Maha Hamad Alattiya; the Former Executive Director of the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research, Anthony Mveyange; and the Executive Assistant and Assistant to the United Nations Representative for UNANIMA International, and Executive Assistant for the United Nations NGO Committee for Social Development, Lara Hicks. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Switzerland, China and Djibouti, as well as the observers for Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Zimbabwe and Senegal. At the same meeting, the observer for the European Union made a statement. The panellists responded to the questions posed and the comments made by the representatives and observers. The Chair (Qatar) made a closing statement.

## Chapter IV

### Programme questions and other matters

36. The Commission considered sub-items 4 (a) and (b) at its 11th meeting, on 13 February 2023.

#### A. Proposed programme plan for 2024

37. At the 11th meeting, on 13 February, the Chief of the Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch in the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

#### B. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

38. At the 11th meeting, on 13 February, the Director of the Bonn Office of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development reported on the work of the Institute (via video link).

### Action taken by the Commission

#### Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

39. At its 11th meeting, on 13 February, with reference to [E/CN.5/2023/7](#), the Commission decided to nominate Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim, Ha-Joon Chang, and Imraan Valodia for an additional two-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2025 (see chap. I.C, decision [61/101](#)).

40. At the same meeting, with further reference to [E/CN.5/2023/7](#), the Commission decided to nominate Naila Kabeer to serve on the Board of the Institute for a four-year term beginning after confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and on a date no sooner than on 1 July 2023 and expiring on 30 June 2027 (see chap. I.C, decision [61/101](#)).

## Chapter V

### **Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission**

41. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 13th meeting, on 15 February 2023. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission ([E/CN.5/2023/L.1](#)).
42. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-second session (see chap. I. B, draft decision).

## Chapter VI

### **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session**

43. At the 13th meeting, on 15 February 2023, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission, Hellen Mkhweo Chifwaila (Zambia), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixty-first session as contained in document [E/CN.5/2023/L.2](#).

44. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur, in consultation with the Secretariat, with its finalization.

## Chapter VII

### Organization of the session

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

45. The Commission for Social Development held its sixty-first session at Headquarters on 16 February 2022 and from 6 to 15 February 2023. The Commission held 13 meetings (1st to 13th).

46. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 February, the Chair (Qatar) made an opening statement.

47. At the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

48. Statements were also made by representatives of civil society, young people (pre-recorded video) and older persons.

#### B. Attendance

49. The session was attended by representatives of 39 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.5/2023/INF/1](#).

#### C. Election of officers

50. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.

51. At its 1st meeting, on 16 February 2022, the Commission elected by acclamation Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar) as Chair and Or Shaked (Israel) and Daniel Zavala Porras (Costa Rica) as Vice-Chairs of the Commission for its sixty-first session.

52. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 February 2023, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Jon Ivanovski (North Macedonia) and Hellen Mkhweo Chifwaila (Zambia) as Vice-Chairs of the sixty-first session.

53. At the same meeting, the Commission designated Ms. Chifwaila as Rapporteur.

54. The Bureau was thus composed as follows:

*Chair:*

Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Hellen Mkhweo Chifwaila (Zambia) (Rapporteur)

Jon Ivanovski (North Macedonia)

Daniel Zavala Porras (Costa Rica)

Or Shaked (Israel)

## **D. Agenda and organization of work**

55. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [E/CN.5/2023/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
  - (a) Priority theme: creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
    - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;
    - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
    - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
    - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;
  - (c) Emerging issues: addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Programme questions and other matters:
  - (a) Proposed programme plan for 2024;
  - (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

56. Also at the 2nd meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair (Qatar), the Commission decided, without setting a precedent for future sessions of the Commission for Social Development, that Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations, as well as specialized agencies, related organizations and civil society organizations, might submit a pre-recorded statement, which would be played in the conference room during the general discussion of the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session.

## **E. Documentation**

57. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-first session is contained in the annex to the present report.

## Annex

**List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its sixty-first session**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/1</a>	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/2</a>	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/3</a>	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/4</a>	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on addressing the social impacts of multifaceted crises to accelerate recovery from the lingering effects of the pandemic through the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/5</a>	3 (b) (ii)	Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/6 &amp; Corr.1</a>	3 (b) (iii)	Report of the Secretary-General on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
<a href="#">A/78/61-E/2023/7</a>	3 (b) (iv)	Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/7</a>	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/8</a>	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.1</a>	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.2</a>	6	Draft report of the Commission on its sixty-first session
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.3</a>	2	Draft resolution on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.4</a>	3 (b) (ii)	Draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.5</a>	3	Draft resolution on social dimensions of the New Partnership's for Africa's Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.6</a>	3 (b) (iii)	Draft resolution on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, 2002
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2023/L.7</a>	3 (a)	Draft resolution on creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
E/CN.5/2023/NGO/1–59 <sup>a</sup>	3 (a) & (b)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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<sup>a</sup> Available at [www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd61/ngo-w-statements.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd61/ngo-w-statements.html).

