

**Seventieth session**

Agenda item 22 (b)

**Globalization and interdependence: science and technology
for development****Report of the Second Committee****Rapporteur:* Ms. Chantal Uwizera (Rwanda)**I. Introduction**

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 22 (see [A/70/474](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 31st, 33rd, 34th and 36th meetings, on 12 and 25 November and 4 and 14 December 2015. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

II. Consideration of proposals**A. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/70/L.4](#) and Rev.1**

2. At the 31st meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Malta introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Day of Women in Science" ([A/C.2/70/L.4](#)) and announced that Armenia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Nicaragua, Panama, Poland, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tunisia had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Togo and Ukraine also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. At its 34th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "International Day of Women and Girls in Science" ([A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cabo Verde, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols [A/70/474](#), [A/70/474/Add.1](#), [A/70/474/Add.2](#), [A/70/474/Add.3](#) and [A/70/474/Add.4](#).

¹ See [A/C.2/70/SR.31](#), [A/C.2/70/SR.33](#), [A/C.2/70/SR.34](#) and [A/C.2/70/SR.36](#).



Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia and Ukraine.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Malta made a statement and announced that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, San Marino and Serbia had joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. Subsequently, Algeria, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam also joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1](#) had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1](#) (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/70/L.40](#) and [A/C.2/70/L.72](#)

7. At the 33rd meeting, on 25 November, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Science and technology for development” ([A/C.2/70/L.40](#)).

8. At its 36th meeting, on 14 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development” ([A/C.2/70/L.72](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Enrique J. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.40](#).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.72](#) had no programme budget implications.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.72](#) (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

11. Also at the 36th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (also on behalf of Australia and the United States of America).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.72](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/70/L.40](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**

The General Assembly,

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

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

Recalling its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, in which it recognized that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women and girls of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recalling also all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, including on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,¹

Realizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Realizing also that women, representing half of the world’s population, continue to be excluded from participating fully in the economy,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7 (E/2011/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

criteria for the proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, stating that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming also that women have a vital role to play in achieving sustainable development, and reiterating its resolve to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels,

Recognizing that women and girls play a critical role in science and technology communities and that their participation should be strengthened,

Recognizing also the important contribution of the science and technology community to sustainable development and in promoting the empowerment, participation and contribution of women and girls in science, technology and innovation,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant organizations in supporting women scientists and in promoting the access of women and girls to and their participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, training and research activities at all levels,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 11 February of each year the International Day of Women and Girls in Science;

2. *Invites* all Member States, all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, the private sector and academia, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness-raising activities, in order to promote the full and equal participation of women and girls in education, training, employment and decision-making processes in the sciences, eliminate all discrimination against women, including in the field of education and employment, and overcome legal, economic, social and cultural barriers thereto by, inter alia, encouraging the development of science education policies and programming, including school curricula, as appropriate, to encourage greater participation of women and girls, promote career development for women in science and recognize the achievements of women in science;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN-Women, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to work together to facilitate the implementation of the Day in collaboration with all relevant organizations already involved in the promotion of women and girls in science;

4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance.

Draft resolution II Science, technology and innovation for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007, 64/212 of 21 December 2009, 66/211 of 22 December 2011 and 68/220 of 20 December 2013,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2009/8 of 24 July 2009, 2010/3 of 19 July 2010, 2011/17 of 26 July 2011, 2012/6 of 24 July 2012, 2013/10 of 22 July 2013, 2014/28 of 16 July 2014 and 2015/27 of 22 July 2015,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,¹

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,²

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

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

Recognizing the importance of technology as one of the key means of implementation in the pursuit of sustainable development, along with finance, capacity-building, an institutional framework and trade,

Taking note of the reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions,³

Recalling its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009 and 65/280 of 17 June 2011,

¹ See [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

² Resolution 66/288, annex.

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11 (E/2011/31); ibid., 2012, Supplement No. 11 and corrigendum (E/2012/31 and Corr.1); ibid., 2013, Supplement No. 11 and corrigendum (E/2013/31 and Corr.1); ibid., 2014, Supplement No. 11 (E/2014/31); and ibid., 2015, Supplement No. 11 (E/2015/31).*

Recognizing the importance of the creation of a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient, adequate, balanced and effective intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science and technology by developing countries,

Recognizing also the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and nutrition, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and ultimately support sustainable development,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,⁴

Recognizing that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries is fundamental to enhancing their ability to produce, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

Concerned that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity to build, support and nurture innovation capacity to enable the development, adoption and dissemination of technology,

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

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Welcoming the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵

Noting the ongoing efforts by the World Intellectual Property Organization, under its existing mandate, to establish technology and innovation support centres in over 50 countries, providing access to technological information through patent databases and access to scientific literature through the Access to Research for Development and Innovation programme, the Access to Specialized Patent Information programme and the development of national intellectual property and innovation strategies,

⁴ Ibid., 2011, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2011/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 123.

Reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;⁶

2. *Reaffirms its commitment:*

(a) To the actions agreed upon by the least developed countries and development partners on science, technology and innovation, as outlined in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;⁷

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

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

(d) To support better coordination and coherence, including the application of best practices in coordination and the sharing of lessons learned among United Nations agencies and international organizations providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of science, technology and innovation directed towards development priorities and needs;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitments that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda⁸ has made in, inter alia, science, technology and innovation, as an important action area for sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* the current role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as other relevant organizations, in helping Governments, upon request, to ensure that science, technology and innovation policies are integrated into and are supportive of national development strategies and sustainable development in their countries and that their science, technology and innovation policies and programmes support national development agendas;

5. *Also recognizes* that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

⁶ A/66/208, A/68/227 and A/70/276.

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

⁸ Resolution 69/313, annex.

Development,⁹ and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

6. *Further recognizes* that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and underlines that addressing barriers to equal access for women and girls to science, technology and innovation requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, and in this regard urges Governments to mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes;

7. *Notes* the importance of facilitating access to and sharing accessible and assistive technologies, through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and other actions, to advance disability-inclusive development, ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and promote their empowerment, recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population;

8. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,¹ and to continue its science, technology and innovation activities, including by sharing best practices;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations University, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies;

10. *Encourages* the World Intellectual Property Organization to continue to undertake technical support activities, including the development of national intellectual patent and innovation strategies;

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

12. *Encourages* efforts to increase the availability of data to support the measurement of national innovation systems (such as the existing global innovation indices) and empirical research on innovation and development to assist policymakers in designing and implementing innovation strategies;

13. *Also encourages* the increase and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, enhanced capacity-building support to developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for this purpose,

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

and international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to further strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities and bureaux;

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

15. *Emphasizes* that science, technology and innovation are critical for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Encourages* the enhancement of capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

17. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen their support for the different science, technology and innovation partnerships with developing countries in primary, secondary and higher education, vocational education and continuing education, for business opportunities for the private sector, for science, technology and innovation infrastructure and for science, technology and innovation advice for developing countries;

18. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism by the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its launch at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and looks forward to its full operationalization;

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

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, a sub-item entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development” in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.