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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the twenty-ninth session (20–24 April 2026)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

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Summary

A summary of discussions at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, its programme, documentation and the list of speakers are available on the webpage of the session at https://unctad.org/meeting/commission-science-and-technology-development-29th-session.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development discussed, under its priority theme entitled "Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence", the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence presents for science, technology and innovation policy and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. The Commission also held a consultation on the joint implementation road map prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society to integrate the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture. In addition, the Commission heard a progress report from the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development, and considered the report on the technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation carried out by the secretariat in follow-up to the outcomes of the Commission.

The Commission held a ministerial round table on the role of science, technology and innovation in transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all. Ministers and other high-level representatives shared national experiences with and policy approaches to harnessing science, technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence, for sustainable development.

In reviewing the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, participants reaffirmed the vision of the World Summit to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and the centrality of the World Summit action lines as the framework for translating that vision into concrete outcomes. Participants stressed the importance of ensuring coherence across the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Digital Compact, in order to avoid duplication and maximize synergies, welcomed the joint implementation road map prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society and requested that the road map be further developed, in collaboration with action line facilitators, to provide more detailed information. The discussion also addressed digital divides, including the gender digital divide, meaningful connectivity, financing for digital development, Internet governance and the work of the Internet Governance Forum. Reports from countries that are beneficiaries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) CropWatch Innovative Cooperation Programme and the UNCTAD project on science, technology and innovation parks for sustainable development demonstrated the impact of technical assistance in supporting developing countries' capacity in science, technology and innovation and the vital role of international partnerships in knowledge transfer.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions, entitled “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society” and “Science, technology and innovation for development”, and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. Statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil and the United States of America.

The Commission selected “Data governance for development: from asymmetry to equitable stewardship” as the priority theme for consideration at its thirtieth session.

Further information on the work of the Commission and its membership is available at https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development.

[8 May 2026]

Contents

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 on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2025/18 of 29 July 2025 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 80/173 of 17 December 2025, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", adopted at its eightieth session,

Reaffirming the centrality of the World Summit action lines, defined in the Geneva Plan of Action,[2] as the main framework for translating the World Summit vision into concrete outcomes,

Welcoming General Assembly resolutions 79/1 of 22 September 2024, in which the Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future which includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, and 80/118 of 15 December 2025 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, and recalling Assembly resolutions 80/147 of 15 December 2025 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, 78/265 of 21 March 2024 on seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development and 78/311 of 1 July 2024 on enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council was tasked by the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, with overseeing, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the system-wide follow-up

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.
[2] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit and its decennial reviews,

Emphasizing the need to uphold these commitments in areas of vulnerability and persistent low level of digital development that hinder safe and equitable access to information and communications technologies for all,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring coherence in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Digital Compact, by strengthening synergies between them to ensure their effective implementation and avoiding duplication of resources and decision-making processes, building on existing agreed frameworks and relevant mandates for the World Summit, the 2030 Agenda and the Compact,

Recognizing in particular the importance of enabling all Governments and other stakeholders from all countries to play a full part in achieving their fulfilment,

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 80/173;

2. *Recognizes* that the World Summit on the Information Society has proven to be a dynamic process that has evolved over the years and is continuing to address the impacts of new and emerging technologies, as well as digital cooperation;

3. *Reaffirms* the overarching World Summit vision to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society as the foundation for aligning the World Summit system and implementation of the Global Digital Compact,[3] contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

I
Stocktaking: reviewing the scenario, commitments and baselines for implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

4. *Recognizes* that the evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors;

5. *Underlines* the need for digital, media and information literacy, civic participation and online safety, expresses concern about the many forms of digital divides remaining between and within countries and regions, including in access, usage and development of digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and in this regard calls for efforts to promote access to information and communications technology, as well as to address prevailing challenges to bridge digital divides, as they persist across income, age, gender and geography, to ensure digital inclusion and participation and the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development;

6. *Recognizes* the critical importance of closing digital divides to fulfil the World Summit vision and ensure that everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge in order to take advantage of opportunities to benefit from digital technologies and improve their quality of life, and in this regard notes with great concern that many developing countries still lack universal, meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies, while others are

[3] General Assembly resolution 79/1, annex I.

still far from having the capacity necessary to develop and harness the benefits of those technologies, including artificial intelligence;

7. *Recalls* that protecting, promoting and respecting human rights are important in the implementation of all action lines, and also recalls that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continues to contribute to their facilitation and assessment;

8. *Recognizes* that the outcomes of the World Summit are anchored in international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law, commits to fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all that respects, protects and promotes all human rights and fundamental freedoms, reaffirms our commitment that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and the importance of safeguarding journalists, media workers and other civil society actors, and calls upon all business enterprises, including surveillance technology companies and companies responsible for social media platforms, to respect human rights in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework.[4]

9. *Notes with great concern* the persistence of the gender digital divide on a global level, which impacts women's and girls' access to and use of information and communications technologies, in this regard encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of girls and women in the digital space, as well as to ensure access to new technologies, especially by significantly enhancing women's and girls' education and promoting the adoption of safety-by-design approaches in the development and deployment of digital tools and technologies, and in this regard stresses the value of gender-disaggregated data to contribute to bridging the gender digital divides, and calls for combating technology-facilitated gender-based violence, such as exploitation, harassment and abuse against women and girls;

10. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to bridge all digital divides by, among other actions, strengthened and enabling policy environments, international cooperation to improve affordability, access to technology, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing;

11. *Underlines* the need for digital, media and information literacy, civic participation and online safety, and reaffirms the objective to put into effect sound strategies, in accordance with national regulatory frameworks, that empower individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to make informed choices about their personal data, identify reliable information that will help them to gain access to opportunities, including work and skilling opportunities, and improve their quality of life, and take appropriate steps to safeguard their online security and privacy, as well as meaningfully contribute to the development of digital government, including through improving access to reliable and affordable broadband at the grass-roots level;

12. *Reiterates* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

13. *Reaffirms* its understanding that the success of the 2030 Agenda will depend on increasing universal, meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technology, and acknowledges the importance of digital measurement

[4] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

and monitoring tools to support the measurement of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the World Summit action lines contributing to digital development and digital inclusion is a critical instrument in enabling progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and reaffirms the importance of cooperation to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development;

15. *Recalls* its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, target 9.c, which aims to significantly increase access to information and communications technology by striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development;

16. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to promote an enabling policy environment for investment and to foster public-private cooperation and partnership for sustainable investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, applications and services, content and digital skills, with the aim of ensuring the meaningful connectivity needed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Reaffirms* the call to encourage the international community to promote policies and programmes with a view to assisting developing countries to take advantage of technology in their pursuit of development through, inter alia, technical cooperation and the building of scientific and technological capacity in our efforts to bridge the digital and development divides;

18. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Development Programme, which is aimed at harnessing the potential of digital technology to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard reiterates the importance of the United Nations Development Programme continuing to focus on such assistance and digital capacity development for countries, in particular developing countries, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations agencies;

19. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and in this regard underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

20. *Further recognizes* the work of the International Telecommunication Union in providing technical assistance, capacity-building and strategic guidance to Member States for the effective implementation of digital transformation initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Urges* all stakeholders, in this regard, to prioritize the development of innovative mechanisms to stimulate the provision of universal, meaningful and affordable access to broadband infrastructure for developing countries; this approach should allow broadband services to support the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and minimize the digital divides, including the gender digital divide;

22. *Recognizes* the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in advancing inclusive, human-centred and rights-based digital transformation, including through its normative and policy work on artificial

intelligence, Internet universality, cultural diversity and multilingualism, digital education, freedom of expression and information integrity, in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

23. *Acknowledges* that developing countries face major impediments in accessing new technologies in an inclusive manner, such as insufficient resources and investment, inappropriate infrastructure and connectivity, and lack of education and capacity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to contribute and provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

24. *Recalls* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges faced by all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 80/173, and encourages the development of international partnerships on artificial intelligence capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, increase access to resources including open artificial intelligence models and systems, open training data and compute, facilitate artificial intelligence model training and development, promote the participation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the digital economy, and leverage existing United Nations and multi-stakeholder mechanisms to support artificial intelligence capacity-building to bridge artificial intelligence divides, facilitate access to artificial intelligence applications and build capacity in high-performance computing and related skills in developing countries;

25. *Recognizes* that without the appropriate and adequate provision of means of implementation, the rapid pace and scale of digitalization may outpace the ability and readiness of some countries to adapt to digital transformation and its subsequent social and economic challenges, and also recognizes that equitable and meaningful inclusion in the digital economy requires efforts to tackle concentrations of technological capacity and market power in order to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development;

26. *Also recognizes* the special and specific funding needs of the developing world, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles of 2003;[5]

27. *Further recognizes* that financing of information and communications technologies for development needs to be placed in the context of the growing importance of the role of information and communications technologies, not only as a medium of communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

28. *Reaffirms* the call in the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sevilla Commitment, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/323 of 25 August 2025, for the development of financing plans and coordination of investment in digital infrastructure, including digital public infrastructure and digital public goods, and for international collaboration between national Governments, development finance institutions, multilateral development banks and relevant international organizations and private sector actors to support countries in their design of digital infrastructure, its financing models and impact measurement;

[5] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

29. *Recalls* the commitment to renew the impetus to address and close digital divides, calls for strengthened international cooperation to address the financial and other constraints impeding the achievement of digital inclusion for all, and, in particular, calls upon governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organizations and the private sector to develop financing mechanisms and incentives, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to connect the unconnected to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity;

30. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the establishment of an internal task force led by the International Telecommunication Union, as the secretariat of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, working with the World Summit action line facilitators and other members of the Group, to conduct an assessment of gaps and challenges and to submit concrete recommendations on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries, building on and complementing existing best practices, including those of multilateral financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector;

31. *Acknowledges* that developing digital public goods and digital public infrastructure are critical drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation and recognizes the need to increase investment in their successful development with the participation of all stakeholders; digital public goods include open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards and open content that adhere to the right to privacy and other applicable international laws, standards and best practices; recognizes that there are multiple models and definitions of digital public infrastructure, and that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its particular priorities and needs; and also recognizes that appropriate governance frameworks are essential to enhance trust in technology and data use by ensuring inclusion, fairness and human rights;

32. *Recognizes* that Internet governance must continue to be global and multi-stakeholder in nature, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities, and reaffirms that Internet governance should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis, including in relation to enhanced cooperation;

33. *Recalls* the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[6]

34. *Takes note* of the NETmundial+10 guidelines for multi-stakeholder collaboration and consensus-building, endorsed in April 2024, as a contribution to strengthening Internet governance through inclusive participation, balanced representation and openness;

35. *Recognizes* that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation, that the open, interoperable nature of the Internet has underpinned the development of an extraordinary range of services and applications, reaching across the range of human society, including governance, economy,

[6] See A/60/687.

development and human rights, and that, to fully benefit all, it must be open, global, interoperable, stable and secure, and reaffirms the need to promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet;

36. *Acknowledges* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum established by the Secretary-General, which provides the primary multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues, including emerging issues, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

37. *Welcomes* the evolution of the Internet Governance Forum from an annual meeting into a broader ecosystem encompassing intersessional and other activities, including dynamic coalitions, best practice forums and policy networks, particularly welcomes the emergence of more than 180 national, regional and youth Internet governance forums, which have enhanced multi-stakeholder discussion of relevant issues in all continents, many subregions and a majority of Member States, also welcomes the work of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group of the Forum and the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Leadership Panel of the Forum, and looks forward to their future efforts in fulfilling the requests to the Forum as specified in General Assembly resolution 80/173;

38. *Also welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to make the Internet Governance Forum a permanent forum of the United Nations, with a continued secretariat hosted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on a stable and sustainable basis with appropriate staffing and resources;

39. *Recognizes* the need to increase and broaden the participation in the Internet Governance Forum of Governments and other stakeholders from all countries, particularly from developing countries and underrepresented groups, such as African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, build stronger relationships with other digital discussion forums and enable more substantive outcomes that can achieve greater impact;

40. *Also recognizes* the need to focus on capacity-development policies, innovation ecosystems and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, particularly in developing countries, with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

41. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technologies, including in artificial intelligence, has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and in this respect draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

42. *Urges* a continued focus on maximizing development gains from digital trade, recognizes, in this regard, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development initiatives, such as eTrade for All, eTrade for Women, the Automated System for Customs Data programme, the digital government platform, as well as the Digital Economy Report and the global call for inclusive digital economy solutions, and takes positive note of the implementation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of the rapid e-trade readiness assessments of least developed countries, in cooperation with other donors and organizations, in order to raise

awareness of opportunities and challenges related to leveraging digital trade in the least developed countries;

43. *Recognizes* the need for further funding and capacity-building of national statistical systems and methodologies to enable all countries to meet the demand for improved data and statistics, calls upon development partners to provide additional resources, share best practices and support capacity development, particularly in developing countries, and urges the private sector to contribute by making appropriate data available to support the gathering and analysis of statistical evidence on the development of the information society, thereby strengthening research, policy development and the work of Governments, civil society, academia and other stakeholders;

44. *Also recognizes* that responsible and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation and promote economic growth;

45. *Recalls* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on data governance, in light of the mandate it was given under the Global Digital Compact, on the establishment of a dedicated working group to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development, including on follow-up recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements;

46. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to promote digital literacy and awareness-raising efforts to empower individuals, especially those in vulnerable situations, to understand and exercise their data protection and privacy rights, make informed choices about their personal data and take appropriate steps to safeguard their online security and privacy;

47. *Encourages* the development and implementation of robust legal frameworks, policies and data protection and accountability measures to foster privacy by design across technologies and services, and highlights the importance of enabling cross-border data flows and data free flow with trust, while respecting applicable legal frameworks in this context, and reaffirming the role of data for development;

48. *Acknowledges* the importance of data and statistics, including the need for more comprehensive indicators reflecting access, use and impact, including disaggregated data for gender equality, to support information and communications technology for development, and calls for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as the inclusion of information and communications technology data in national strategies for the development of statistics and regional statistical work programmes;

49. *Emphasizes* the vital importance of multilingualism and local content and the integrity of information, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to encourage the creation of and access to educational, cultural and scientific content online, aiming at promoting inclusive and meaningful access to the Internet in all languages, including Indigenous languages, and ensuring that all people and cultures can express themselves;

50. *Notes* that information and communications technologies have had substantial impacts on diversity of cultural expression and the development of the cultural and creative sectors, and urges all stakeholders to recognize the importance of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage, including digital content, and promoting access to cultural resources;

II
Overview of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society

51. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the 20-year review thereof;[7]

52. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature and the role played in this regard by leading agencies, acknowledges that the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level is facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including on the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each region may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit;

53. *Welcomes* the many initiatives of United Nations organizations to support the implementation of the World Summit action lines, and encourages all action line facilitators to continue this work, reiterates the importance of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum for sharing best practices at all levels through the World Summit stocktaking platform, and recognizes the World Summit prizes contest, which rewards excellence in the implementation of projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit;

54. *Notes* the World Summit process and 2030 Agenda-Global Digital Compact matrix, prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which maps the objectives and commitments of the Global Digital Compact to existing World Summit structures, mechanisms and activities, providing a structured approach for effective follow-up and implementation, and, building on this work and consistent with the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and within existing mandates and resources, takes note of the first version of the joint implementation road map prepared the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which aims to strengthen coherence between the World Summit and the Global Digital Compact, ensuring a unified, resource-efficient approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes synergies across the United Nations system;

55. *Acknowledges* the approaches to international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact, and in this regard welcomes the establishment, pursuant to Assembly resolution 79/325 of 26 August 2025, of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence and the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance, as platforms for evidence-based assessments and international cooperation on artificial intelligence governance;

56. *Recognizes* the annual World Summit on the Information Society Forum, which has become an important platform for the sharing of information and best practice and for multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration and for developing networks and coordinating initiatives to implement the World Summit vision;

[7] A/81/62-E/2025/48.

III
The road ahead

57. *Reaffirms* the centrality of the World Summit action lines, as defined in the Geneva Plan of Action, as the main framework for translating the World Summit vision into concrete outcomes;

58. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 80/173, the General Assembly requested continuation of the reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Economic and Social Council;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, on a biennial basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

60. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit, as well as in the follow-up and review process of the Global Digital Compact;

61. *Encourages* World Summit action line facilitators to ensure close alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Digital Compact when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources;

62. *Encourages* United Nations organizations, within their mandates and responsibilities, as well as other relevant organizations and forums, to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

63. *Recalls* the continuation and strengthening of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, with a Chair rotating on an annual basis and a secretariat provided by the International Telecommunication Union, as the United Nations system inter-agency mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on digital matters, also recalls the invitation to the Group to enhance its agility, efficiency and effectiveness and expand its membership to further United Nations entities, with a view to fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue, partnership-building and a review of progress on digital cooperation, and invites the Group to inform on progress made thereon for the consideration of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its thirtieth session, in 2027;

64. *Calls upon* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and action line facilitators, within their respective mandates, to share experience on the enabling environment and support the development of demand-driven policy guidance, technical assistance and capacity-building, as appropriate, to realize them;

65. *Reaffirms* the commitment to maintain and improve cooperation between the activities of international and intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders concerned with Internet governance;

66. *Requests* the Internet Governance Forum to report annually on progress towards implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and further calls upon the United Nations Group on the Information Society and all relevant United Nations entities, action line facilitators, the Commission and the World Summit on the Information Society Forum

to take Internet Governance Forum outcomes into account in their work and proceedings;

67. *Recalls* the request of the General Assembly for the World Summit action line facilitators, in coordination with the United Nations Group on the Information Society, to develop targeted and result-oriented implementation road maps for their respective action lines and the outcomes of resolution 80/173, linking the World Summit action lines with relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets and Global Digital Compact commitments, including clear analysis of opportunities and challenges, measurable targets, indicators and metrics to facilitate monitoring and measurement, and to report on the outcomes of this work to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its thirtieth session, in 2027;

68. *Requests* all action line facilitators, in coordination with the United Nations Group on the Information Society, to conduct an annual update briefing, organized by the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, on work done, providing a synthesis of all initiatives carried out by each organization under its corresponding mandate; the briefing should be carried out before each annual session of the Commission, serving as a technical input for the World Summit implementation overview of the resolution, as well as the biennial report of the Secretary-General;

69. *Calls*, in order to increase transparency and coherence within the United Nations system, for the United Nations Group on the Information Society to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on an annual basis a report on updated versions of the joint implementation road map, including clear analysis of opportunities and challenges, containing measures such as detailed timelines, clear responsibilities and measurable targets, embedded within a forward-looking and operational implementation framework, to ensure a unified, resource-efficient approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes synergies;

70. *Requests* the internal task force on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries to conduct an assessment of gaps and challenges and to submit concrete recommendations on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries, building on and complementing existing best practices, including those of multilateral financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its thirtieth session, in 2027, for consideration by Member States, and invites the internal task force to monitor financial commitments for the implementation of these outcomes;

71. *Acknowledges* the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 80/173, to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2035, involving the input and participation of all stakeholders, including in the preparatory process;

72. *Recalls* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in data governance within the United Nations system, and requests the working group established in line with the Global Digital Compact to report on its progress to the General Assembly, by no later than the eighty-first session;

73. *Commits* to strengthening international cooperation to close the current serious gaps on data for development and champion the responsible use and sharing of data within and between countries to advance progress across the Sustainable Development Goals;

74. *Encourages* United Nations entities to continue actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, by taking the steps necessary to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, as well as to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

75. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to take into account the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, different levels of development and national circumstances, and calls upon the United Nations and other relevant organizations and forums to periodically review these methodologies for information and communications technology indicators and share information about country case studies;

76. *Requests* the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development, in cooperation with action line facilitators and with the support of the Statistical Commission, to conduct a systematic review of existing indicators and methodologies, to consider, in this context, the development of enhanced metrics that go beyond access and connectivity, in order to better capture participation, influence and impact in the digital economy, including women and girls, and to report its findings to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its thirtieth session, in 2027;

77. *Decides* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will review the resolution on a biennial basis starting in 2028, unless otherwise agreed, and also decides to continue undertaking its annual review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit.

Draft resolution II
Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [1] by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies,

Recognizing also the critical role of science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, in fostering sustainable development, enhancing economic competitiveness, and addressing global challenges, and highlighting their role as key enablers of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming that strengthened international cooperation in science, technology and innovation, particularly between developed and developing countries, is essential for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledging the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing to facilitate the transfer and diffusion of technologies on mutually agreed terms in line with sustainable development priorities, taking into account national circumstances and differing levels of development,

Noting that most developing countries are facing specific challenges with a weak level of digital development and limited access to science, technology and innovation, necessitating adapted approaches to overcome these obstacles and to support resilient and sustainable development, and recognizing the particular challenges of countries facing infrastructure limitations and financial constraints,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 80/173 of 17 December 2025, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which it was recognized that science, technology and innovation are integral to digital development,

Recalling also the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [2] and the Paris Agreement,[3]

Recalling further that, in its resolution 80/138 of 15 December 2025, the General Assembly acknowledged that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, in particular developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and reiterated the urgency of scaling up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, for implementing approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to these effects,

Recognizing that, in its resolution 80/138, the General Assembly recognized that the current need for adaptation is significant, emphasizing the importance of continuing to take actions to promote the adequacy and predictability of adaptation

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

finance, taking into account the role of the Adaptation Fund in delivering dedicated support for adaptation, and acknowledging the growing impact of digital technologies and artificial intelligence on environmental sustainability,

Recognizing also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 80/147 of 15 December 2025 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries, upon request, in identifying the priorities and measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies so that policies and programmes are supportive of national development agendas,[4] as appropriate,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2025/322 of 29 July 2025 providing for the extension, until 2030, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and reaffirming the need to address the barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recognizing the commitments made within the United Nations system, as well as other global and regional initiatives, to promote gender equality and support the empowerment and participation of women and girls in science, technology and innovation, digital skills development and innovation ecosystems aimed at addressing the gender digital divide, and of those in vulnerable situations such as youth, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Noting with concern the existing disparities between developed and developing countries in terms of conditions, possibilities and capacities to produce new scientific and technological knowledge, and emphasizing that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration as well as international support are fundamental to enhancing developing countries' ability to benefit from technological advances and to produce, nurture, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

Taking into account the importance of international cooperation in science, technology and innovation to achieve the international community's commitment to sustainable development and leaving no one behind, and the role of global partnerships in facilitating the co-creation of global solutions to tackling global challenges, including diverse knowledge systems and traditional knowledge,

Recognizing that capabilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as social sciences and humanities, design, management, and entrepreneurial skills are central for effective innovation, but are unevenly distributed across and within countries and regions, and that the availability, accessibility and affordability of inclusive and equitable quality education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, as well as lifelong learning opportunities in science, technology and mathematics, are essential and should be funded, promoted, prioritized and coordinated, in order to create an inclusive social environment conducive to the advancement of science, technology and innovation,

Noting that rapid technological change can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, by improving real incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions to economic,

[4] The framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews was developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see document UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2019/4).

social and environmental obstacles, supporting more inclusive forms of participation in social and economic life, bridging the digital divides in all their forms, replacing environmentally costly modes of production with more sustainable ones and giving policymakers powerful tools to design and plan development interventions,

Noting also that new technologies create new jobs and development opportunities, thus increasing the demand for quality digital skills and competencies in science, technology and innovation, and underlining the importance of building such skills and competencies so that societies can adapt to and benefit from relevant technological changes,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 79/334 of 5 September 2025, in which the Assembly requested the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existing resources,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its current priority theme, "Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence", underlining the importance of ethical, safe and inclusive development and deployment of artificial intelligence, in accordance with international human rights law and taking into account the principles established in the Global Digital Compact,[5] the outcome document of the 20-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[6] and General Assembly resolution 79/325 of 26 August 2025, promoting international cooperation and capacity-building to enable all countries, particularly developing countries, to harness artificial intelligence for sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for innovative approaches that respond to the needs of those in vulnerable situations in developing and developed countries, while protecting personal data from misuse and respecting privacy, the ownership of personal data, cybersecurity and responsible use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, that involve them in innovation processes and that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

Recognizing also the importance of the right to privacy, data protection and consumer protection in the context of science and technology for development, and broader ethical and linguistic considerations in science, technology and innovation development,

Recognizing further that technology foresight and assessment exercises, including gender-sensitive and environmentally sensitive technologies, could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues, in particular in developing regions such as, among others, Africa, where regional integration initiatives, including regional digital markets, play a key role in advancing science, technology and innovation,

[5] General Assembly resolution 79/1, annex I.
[6] General Assembly resolution 80/173.

Welcoming the convening of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Sevilla, Spain, and reaffirming its outcome document, the Sevilla Commitment, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/323 of 25 August 2025,

Recognizing the need to renew commitments to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, and encouraging the implementation of initiatives and programmes that facilitate sustainable investments and participation in the digital economy,

Noting that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest in and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth, incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer and financial and technical assistance support,

Recalling that, in its resolution 74/306 of 11 September 2020, the General Assembly called upon Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote research and development and capacity-building initiatives, as well as to enhance cooperation on and access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the intricate relationship between data and sustainable development and the complexity of data governance,

Recalling that, in its resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, the General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future as part of the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, which includes a dedicated section on science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation and an annexed Global Digital Compact, and recalling also that, in paragraph 48 of the Global Digital Compact, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was requested to establish a dedicated working group to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development,

Recognizing the contribution of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities by empowering and giving a voice to people, including those in vulnerable situations, through, among others, extending access to education and health, monitoring environmental and social risks, connecting people, enabling early warning systems, driving economic diversification, and economic development, while considering negative effects on the environment,

Taking into consideration that traditional knowledge, including that of Indigenous Peoples, with due respect for their rights, including free, prior and informed consent, as well as local communities, can be a basis for technological development and the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its efforts to support the establishment of the Commission's Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development,

1. *Recommends* the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To integrate science, technology and innovation into national strategies to develop resilient and affordable digital infrastructure to promote access to information and communications technologies, and to conduct specific analysis of the impact of technological change on development and support the development of pilot projects;

(ii) To establish a close link between science, technology, innovation and sustainable development strategies, giving a prominent place to institutional, infrastructure and human resource capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in the future vision and planning of national development;

(iii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, including Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting infrastructure development, including smart infrastructure, through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iv) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access, to all people, particularly women, girls and youth, and persons with disabilities and from remote, rural and local communities, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to accelerate the growth in the number of new Internet users, endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services, and ensuring online safety for children;

(v) To support the development, deployment and sustainable use of emerging and open-source technologies and support policies towards open science and open innovation and know-how for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries, and to scale up the means of implementation to developing countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacities, including by harnessing technologies and scientific knowledge as a global public good through the enhancement of the use of open science and affordable open-source technology;

(vi) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies and all relevant entities and forums, such as the Commission and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Goals;

(vii) To continue giving due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within their respective mandates and existent resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 79/334;

(viii) To use strategic foresight exercises as a process to identify potential digital and other gaps or constraints in quality education in the medium and long terms, and to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of government, science, industry, civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues, such as the changing nature of work, building consensus on future policies, and addressing such gaps through a policy mix, including connecting schools to the Internet, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls in the promotion of gender-responsive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, vocational training and digital and data literacy, in order to help to meet current and emerging demands for competence and adaptation to change in a manner relevant to specific national and local situations and needs;

(ix) To incorporate the provision of digital competencies, including but not limited to entrepreneurship and complementary soft skills, in technical and vocational education and training and formal education curricula and lifelong learning opportunities, while taking into consideration best practices, local contexts and needs, and ensuring broad and up-to-date technological knowledge and that education is technology-neutral;

(x) To develop responsive and sustainable policies to leverage frontier technologies for inclusive economic diversification, ensuring ethical and responsible use of emerging technologies, and underscoring the important role of digital public infrastructure, open innovation, capacity-building and equitable international cooperation in enabling countries to keep pace with technological advancements and diversify industries with higher value-added production that benefits all sectors of society and promotes climate resilience and social equity;

(xi) To foster an open, fair, inclusive, development-oriented and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development and cooperation;

(xii) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(xiii) To encourage assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, taking into account the needs and perspectives of women and girls, and gender-sensitive aspects, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States, and, on a voluntary basis, to provide financial support and expertise towards the implementation of the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in interested developing countries;

(xiv) To encourage digital natives and digital learners to play a key role in a community-based approach, including gender-responsive approaches, to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(xv) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems and facilitate sustainable investment, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, as well as

public-private partnerships, based on mutually beneficial, equitable and transparent cooperation between public and private entities in the development and deployment of technologies, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship and making available disaggregated data sources for science, technology and innovation;

(xvi) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, to promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, in order to improve environmental sustainability, food security, the creation, reuse and sharing of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(xvii) To promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, quality education in science, technology and innovation and statistical literacy, particularly among women and girls, while also recognizing the importance of complementary soft skills, such as entrepreneurship, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective when developing and implementing policies that harness science, technology and innovation;

(xviii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South and triangular cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial and technical assistance, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses, and implement targeted policies to support local startups and small and medium-sized technology enterprises, including through access to financing, public procurement, digital infrastructure and business support programmes;

(xix) To encourage countries to support education and progressively increase high-quality skilled human resources at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, in different sectors, solving problems and enhancing human welfare, while fostering an enabling environment for improved career prospects, decent work and social justice;

(xx) To consider engaging in an inclusive global discourse about all aspects of rapid technological change and its impact on sustainable development;

(xxi) To promote comprehensive policies that ensure the safety and ethical use of data, robust cybersecurity practices, and privacy, data protection, and consumer protection and promoting the economic valorization of data as a driver of sustainable development;

(xxii) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals, in the context of the Sevilla Commitment endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/323 of 25 August 2025;

(xxiii) To encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities and those in vulnerable situations, women and girls, youth, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive, safe and do not create further risk for children or deepen divides;

(xxiv) To support the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to improve the scientific research and innovation base of least

developed countries, promote networking among researchers and research institutions, help least developed countries to gain access to and utilize technology, draw together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector and implement projects that contribute to the use of science, technology and innovation for economic development in least developed countries;

(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue providing high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues, and in this regard to contribute to informing the high-level thematic debate on the topic of the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its eighty-first session, and to the discussion of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 77/320 of 25 July 2023 and 79/334 at its eighty-first session;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to new and emerging technologies;

(iii) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Sevilla Commitment, international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including innovative financing models, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(iv) To invite countries to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on progress made, good practices, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing science, technology and innovation policies, and to encourage the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its focus on science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(v) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vi) To support multi-stakeholder collaboration in policy learning and capacity-building, including in the context of workstream 6 on capacity-building of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vii) To harness emerging technologies for the acceleration of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, raise awareness and deepen understanding of potential risks of emerging technologies, and take actions to mitigate these risks, and enhance the skills and competencies necessary as well as international cooperation to address them;

(viii) To support countries in their efforts to identify future trends and challenges in terms of capacity-building needs, including through foresight exercises;

(ix) To promote cooperation through the conduct of capacity-building and research and development initiatives among Member States, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies,

working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and to provide a forum for sharing not only success stories and best practices, but also failures, key challenges and learning from such cooperation;

(x) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xi) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant forums;

(xii) To strengthen and deepen collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, including sharing good practices and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policymaking and implementation, and to play an active role in creating awareness in support of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

(xiii) To request the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, expressing appreciation for the contribution of the Gender Advisory Board to the discussions of the Commission at its twenty-ninth session, in particular at the panel on science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence;

(xiv) To report to the General Assembly, by no later than the eighty-first session, on the progress made by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of strategic foresight, innovation ecosystem assessment, gender perspective and digital technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To encourage Governments to use the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a mechanism to support science, technology and innovation in least developed countries and to assist least developed countries to further develop their own technologies;

(iii) To continue to provide support for the States members of the Commission in their joint initiatives aimed at promoting science, technology and innovation in line with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) To strengthen support to the Commission and the Secretariat, including through resources mobilization;

2. *Also recommends* that the Commission continue the informal process of consultations among member States, ahead of its thirtieth session, in order to improve the efficiency of the resolution on science, technology and innovation, mindful of the goal of the Commission to foster science, technology and innovation for development, respecting the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account that this process will include the interests of all member States, especially developing countries, in a balanced and comprehensive manner on the basis of the present resolution, retaining the equilibrium reached in previous years.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

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

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-ninth session;[1]

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

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

3. Science and technology for development: priority theme: Data governance for development: from asymmetry to equitable stewardship.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

4. Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation following Commission outcomes.

5. Progress report of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development.

6. Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirty-first session of the Commission.

7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-first session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2026, Supplement No. 11* (E/2026/31).

Chapter II
Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at a meeting on 21 April 2026. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/81/62-E/2026/48).

4. The Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the review of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels, including the 20-year review thereof, and a consultation on the joint implementation road map prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Switzerland).

5. At the same meeting, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) introduced the report of the Secretary-General. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Digital and Emerging Technologies, Amandeep Singh Gill, updated the Commission on the progress made in implementing the Global Digital Compact.

6. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Head of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Stakeholder Engagement Division of the International Telecommunication Union, Gitanjali Sah; Head of the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum, Chengetai Masango; and Executive Director of IT for Change, Anita Gurumurthy.

7. In the interactive discussion that followed, ministerial-level interventions were made by the representatives of Algeria, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Poland and the United Republic of Tanzania. Statements were also made by the representatives of Austria, Latvia, India, Indonesia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Switzerland, the observer for Mozambique, the observer for Italy on behalf of the European Union and its member States, the observer for the Russian Federation, the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, the United Nations Group on the Information Society, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the Association for Progressive Communications and the International Association of University Professors and Lecturers, to which the panellists responded.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission held a consultation on the joint implementation road map prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, pursuant to paragraph 122 of General Assembly resolution 80/173. Presentations were made by UNCTAD as Chair of the Group and by the International Telecommunication Union as the secretariat of the Group.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

9. At its closing plenary meeting, on 24 April 2026, the Commission considered a draft resolution entitled “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”,

following informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chairs (Brazil) and (Switzerland).

10. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Paraguay and Ecuador. Guatemala dissociated itself from paragraph 9 of the resolution. Paraguay placed on record its position on paragraphs 55 and 74 relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and dissociated itself from paragraph 9 of the resolution. Ecuador dissociated itself from paragraph 9 of the resolution in its entirety. A general statement was also made by the representative of the United States of America.

11. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III
Science and technology for development

Priority theme:
Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence

12. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at a meeting on 20 April 2026. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence (E/CN.16/2026/2).

13. The Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme "Science, technology and innovation in the age of artificial intelligence", moderated by the Vice-Chair (Brazil).

14. At the same meeting, the UNCTAD secretariat introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

15. The panel featured briefings by the Permanent Representative of El Salvador, Egriselda López, and the Permanent Representative of Estonia, Rein Tammsaar, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance, and by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and Co-Coordinator of the joint secretariat of the Global Dialogue, Doreen Bogdan-Martin. A statement was also made by the Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Digital and Emerging Technologies on the plan of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence.

16. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Director of the Technology and Industrialisation for Development (TIDE) Centre at the University of Oxford, Amir Lebdioui; Professor Emerita of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and member of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, Alice Abreu; and Vice-President of the Our Hong Kong Foundation and Executive Director of the Public Policy Institute, Kenny Shui.

17. In the interactive discussion that followed, ministerial-level interventions were made by the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cuba, as well as by the observer for South Africa. Interventions and statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Indonesia, the Gambia, the United Kingdom, Portugal, the United Republic of Tanzania and China and by the observers for Saudi Arabia and Kenya.

Action taken by the Commission

Science, technology and innovation for development

18. At its closing plenary meeting, on 24 April 2026, the Commission considered a draft resolution entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development", following informal consultations facilitated by the Vice-Chairs (Gambia) and (Estonia).

19. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Brazil. Brazil reserved its position on the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1 (a) (xviii) and 1 (b) (iii), objecting to the qualifiers "voluntary" and "mutually agreed" applied to the term "transfer of technology".

20. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Chapter IV

Report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation, and progress report of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development

21. The Commission considered agenda items 4 and 5 on 21 April 2026, at a meeting moderated by the Vice-Chair (Estonia). Under agenda item 5, the Commission heard an update on the work of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels, as Relevant for Development from the Chair of the Working Group, Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil). Under agenda item 4, the secretariat presented the report on technical cooperation activities in science, technology and innovation carried out by the secretariat in follow-up to the outcomes of the Commission, including the results of the project entitled “Science, technology and innovation parks for sustainable development: building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries”, with reports from beneficiary countries Ghana, Mozambique, Uzbekistan and Mongolia, and the results of the CropWatch Innovative Cooperation Programme presented by the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China) and the National Space Research and Development Agency (Nigeria).

22. In the interactive discussion that followed the update on the work of the Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Data Governance, interventions were made by the representatives of India and Burkina Faso and by the Gender Advisory Board, to which the Chair of the Working Group responded. Under agenda item 4, interventions in the interactive discussion were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso and Paraguay, and by the observer for Zimbabwe.

Chapter V
Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirtieth session of the Commission

23. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its closing plenary meeting, on 24 April 2026.

24. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its thirtieth session:

Chair:
Ivars **Pundurs** (Latvia)

Vice-Chairs:
Zhang Xian (China)
Guilherme de Aguiar **Patriota** (Brazil)
Muhammadou M.O. **Kah** (Gambia)
Isabelle **Lois** (Switzerland)

Chapter VI
Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission

25. The Commission considered agenda item 7 at its closing plenary meeting, on 24 April 2026, and adopted the priority theme for the thirtieth session and the draft decision to be submitted to the Council concerning the report on the twenty-ninth session and the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirtieth session. The Commission decided to recommend the decision to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B). The Chair announced that the thirtieth session of the Commission would be held from 19 to 23 April 2027.

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session

26. The Commission recommended to the Council that it take note of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session through a draft decision adopted at the closing plenary meeting on 24 April 2026 (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

27. The Commission held its twenty-ninth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2026.

28. On 20 April 2026, the interim Chair, Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia), opened the twenty-ninth session of the Commission. The Commission elected by acclamation Zhang Xian (China) as Chair of the twenty-ninth session, in accordance with the rotation of the post among regional groups, and Karin Voodla (Estonia) as Vice-Chair from the Eastern European States. The other Vice-Chairs of the twenty-ninth session, elected at the closing plenary of the twenty-eighth session, were Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil), Muhammadou M.O. Kah (Gambia) and Isabelle Lois (Switzerland). The Commission then adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2026/1.

29. During the opening plenary meeting, an opening statement was made by the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Pedro Manuel Moreno, and a special address was delivered by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. The Commission also heard a video message from the President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Nepal, Lok Bahadur Thapa.

30. Following the opening plenary meeting, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the role of science, technology and innovation in transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all, as a contribution of the Commission to the 2026 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The round table was moderated by the Vice-Chair (Gambia) and opened with a video briefing by the Co-Chairs of the 2026 multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Permanent Representative of Zambia, Chola Milambo, and the Permanent Representative of Austria, Gregor W. Koessler.

31. The following ministers and other high-level representatives took part in the ministerial round table: Minister of Knowledge Economy, Start-ups and Micro-enterprises of Algeria, Noureddine Ouadah; Minister of Higher Education, University Education and Scientific Research of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Marie Therèse Sombo Ayane Safi; Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of South Africa, Bonginkosi Nzimande; First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications of Cuba, Ernesto Rodríguez Hernández; Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Head of the Information Technology Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Mohsen Sadr; Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation of Kenya, Shaukat Abdulrazak; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation of Mozambique, Nilsa Sandra Miquidade; Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs and Secretary of State of Poland, Michał Gramatyka; and Deputy Minister for Communications, Information Technology and Innovation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mohd Sijiamini Mohd. A general discussion ensued and interventions were made by the representatives of China, Portugal, Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Zambia, the Gambia and Oman, as well as by the observers from Ghana, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and the Dominican Republic.

B. Attendance

32. The list of participants for the session is available from the secretariat.

C. Election of officers

33. On 20 April 2026, the Commission elected by acclamation Zhang Xian (China) as Chair of the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, in accordance with the rotation of the post of Chair among the regional groups, and Karin Voodla (Estonia) as Vice-Chair from the Eastern European States, completing the membership of the Bureau elected at the closing plenary meeting of the twenty-eighth session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

34. On 20 April 2026, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2026/1, and approved the proposed organization of work for its twenty-ninth session.

E. Documentation

35. The documents before the Commission at its twenty-ninth session are available at https://unctad.org/meeting/commission-science-and-technology-development-29th-session.

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