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Economic and environmental questions: science and technology for development

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 2024

[on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development ([E/2024/31](#))]

2024/14. 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 torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development, and 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 Development¹ 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 and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation as enablers of development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome² and General Assembly resolution [70/125](#) of 16 December 2015, 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 and technology, including information and communications technologies, are

¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

² General Assembly resolution [60/1](#).



vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also the entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement,³

Recalling further that, in its resolution [78/153](#) of 19 December 2023, the General Assembly acknowledged that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, especially those that are vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change, and emphasized the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries,

Noting with great concern the severe negative and dramatic impact on human health, global poverty and inequality, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic,

Reaffirming, after the COVID-19 pandemic, the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by funding, strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolutions [76/213](#) of 17 December 2021 and [78/160](#) of 19 December 2023 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 in identifying the priorities and measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies and ensuring that such policies and programmes are supportive of national development agendas,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2021/254 of 22 July 2021 providing for the extension, until 2025, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions [70/132](#) of 17 December 2015 and [70/213](#) and [70/219](#) of 22 December 2015 addressing, respectively, 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,

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

³ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

advances and to produce, nurture, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session,⁴ in which it, inter alia, highlighted the need for managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen their capacities, including the institutional capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the changing world of work,

Recalling also the outcome document of the forum entitled "Investment in women and girls in science for inclusive green growth", held in New York on 11 and 12 February 2019 to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science,⁵

Recalling further the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation at the workshop held in Vienna on 18 January 2019, and during the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on 21 May 2021, as well as the work of the Commission to address the participation of women in science, technology and innovation from a development perspective, including its work in partnership with Okayama University on the young female researcher, as well as seminars and workshops on science, technology and innovation organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat of the Commission,

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divides, particularly the gender digital divide, as addressed by the EQUALS global partnership and the #eSkills4Girls initiative of the Group of 20,

Encouraging initiatives that promote the role of women in science, technology and innovation in developing countries, including the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards, the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World Early Career Fellowships for women and the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence for women,

Recognizing that capabilities, such as basic education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics, 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 quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels 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,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, in the achievement of a number

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7 (E/2017/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

⁵ [A/73/798](#), annex I.

of Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore highlighting their role as enablers of the 2030 Agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and recalling also the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Highlighting the contribution that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development can make to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, bearing in mind its mandate to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, academia, United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders for achieving Sustainable Development Goals supported by science, technology and innovation,

Recalling that, in its resolution [72/228](#) of 20 December 2017, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission to promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development,

Recalling also that, in the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission to discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means of attracting new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, at the regional and multilateral levels as appropriate,

Noting that rapid technological change can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda by improving real incomes, enabling faster and wider deployment of novel solutions to economic, 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 digital skills and competencies, and underlining the importance of building digital skills and competencies so that societies can adapt to and benefit from relevant technological changes,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [72/242](#) of 22 December 2017, [73/17](#) of 26 November 2018, [75/316](#) of 17 August 2021 and [77/320](#) of 25 July 2023, in which the Assembly requested the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Commission, 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 two current priority themes, “Data for development” and “Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development”,

Recalling the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews that has been developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist countries in better aligning science, technology and innovation policies with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,⁶

Recognizing the need for innovative approaches that respond to the needs of the poorest, marginalized and grass-roots communities, including those in vulnerable

⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2019/4.

situations, in developing and developed countries, while protecting their personal data from misuse and respecting the ownership of personal data, 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 data protection and privacy in the context of science and technology for 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 that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems⁷ play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing also the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁸ including the principles referred to therein,

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,

Recognizing also that people around the world are affected by shocks, from economic crises to health emergencies, from social conflicts and war to disasters caused by natural hazards, and that these shocks have a severe impact on the progress towards achieving sustainable development,

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 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals,

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

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,

⁷ The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 78/259 of 9 January 2024 on the International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South, in particular its call upon the international community to foster an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development and cooperation, as well as to support the efforts of all countries, including those of the global South, to develop and strengthen their national science, technology and innovation systems,

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,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that science, technology and innovation policies must be aligned to address the three dimensions of sustainable development, specifically, economic development, social progress and environmental protection,

Taking into consideration that traditional knowledge can be a basis for technological development and the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Encouraging the design and implementation of public policies that address the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

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,

Noting also various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation to explore needs and priorities related to issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

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 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 communication technologies and science, technology and innovation in the future vision and planning of national development;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, 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;

(iii) 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 special needs and from remote and rural communities, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to accelerate the growth in the number of new Internet users and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

(iv) To undertake systemic research, including gender-sensitive aspects, for foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(v) 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;

(vi) 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 resolutions [72/242](#), [73/17](#), [75/316](#) and [77/320](#);

(vii) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps or constraints in education for the medium and long terms and address such gaps with a policy mix, including 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;

(viii) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of government, science, industry and 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 and building consensus on future policies, and to help to meet current and emerging demands for competence and adaptation to change;

(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 initiatives, 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 collaborative mechanisms to strengthen research and development networks and cooperation among different actors as well as to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to science cooperation, and to incentivize technology and knowledge transfer among universities, research institutes and the private sector, including at the international level;

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

- (xii) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;
- (xiii) To conduct technology assessment and foresight exercises as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders towards creating a shared understanding of the implications of rapid technological change;
- (xiv) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation into the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (xv) To conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, taking into account the needs 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;
- (xvi) To encourage digital natives 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;
- (xvii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, 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, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship and making available disaggregated data sources for science, technology and innovation;
- (xviii) To implement initiatives and programmes that encourage and facilitate sustainable investment and participation in the digital economy;
- (xix) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability, encourage the creation, reuse and sharing of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (xx) To promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and statistical literacy, particularly among female students, 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;
- (xxi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South as well as South-South cooperation, as complementary to but not substituting for each other, by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(xxii) To encourage countries to progressively increase the rate of generation of 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 and work conditions;

(xxiii) To increase support for research and development activities on rapid technological change and ensure the coherence of science, technology and innovation policies and strategies on rapid technological change with the broader national development agenda;

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

(xxv) To promote comprehensive policies that ensure the safety and ethical use of data, and robust cybersecurity practices;

(xxvi) To support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xxvii) To encourage the inclusiveness of innovation, especially with regard to local and marginalized communities, women, youth, older persons and people with special needs, to ensure that the scaling and diffusion of new technologies are inclusive and do not create further divides;

(xxviii) 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 critical technologies, 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 its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide 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 seventy-ninth session, and to the discussion of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions [75/316](#) and [77/320](#) at its seventy-ninth 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 consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

- (iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;
- (v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹ international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;
- (vi) 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;
- (vii) To support multi-stakeholder collaboration in policy learning capacity-building and technology development, including to support the participation of actors in the innovation systems of Member States in international networks and programmes to continue to build their capacity in innovation;
- (viii) To support efforts to build capacity to develop, use and deploy new and existing technologies, based on needs, in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;
- (ix) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;
- (x) To explore ways and means of conducting international technology assessments and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies and their implications for sustainable development and building resilient communities, including discussions about models of governance for new areas of scientific and technological development;
- (xi) To support countries in their efforts to identify future trends in terms of capacity-building needs, including through foresight exercises;
- (xii) To discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;
- (xiii) 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;
- (xiv) To provide a forum for sharing not only success stories and best practices, but also failures, key challenges and learning from the results of

⁹ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities, including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(xv) 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;

(xvi) 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;

(xvii) 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, in this context, to follow up on the work done by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at the workshop on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation, held in Vienna on 18 January 2019;

(xviii) To play an active role in creating awareness of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

(xix) To consider establishing a dedicated working group within the Commission that would engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on the fundamental principles of data governance at all levels, as relevant for development, under the auspices of the United Nations, taking into account the conclusion of the negotiations on the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, including the Global Digital Compact;

(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 information and communications 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 look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To implement as widely as possible its framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable

Development Goals, including a specific focus on bottom-of-the-pyramid approaches to innovation, and on social inclusion;

(iv) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(v) To request the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policy reviews;

(vi) To highlight the appreciation of the Commission for the contribution of the Gender Advisory Board to the discussions of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission, in particular at the high-level panel on data for development;

(vii) 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;

(viii) 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.

*37th plenary meeting
23 July 2024*