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Seventy-second session  
Agenda item 177

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2017

[without reference to a Main Committee (*A/72/L.38* and *A/72/L.38/Add.1*)]

### 72/242. Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

*The General Assembly,*

*Mindful* that the impacts, opportunities and challenges of rapid technological change on sustainable development, including in cases in which changes may occur at an exponential pace, are not fully understood,

*Recalling* its resolutions [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 and [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, in which it established and launched a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the Sustainable Development Goals, composed of a United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, a multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and an online platform,

*Recalling also* its resolution [70/213](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development”, and other relevant resolutions, and noting the work on emerging technologies by relevant United Nations entities,

*Noting* the Co-Chairs’ summaries of the first multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation, held in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016,<sup>1</sup> and of the second forum, held in New York on 15 and 16 May 2017,<sup>2</sup> as well as the holding of the joint meeting of the Second Committee of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the theme “The future of everything — sustainable development in the age of rapid technological change”, on 11 October 2017,

*Recognizing* the need for Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, the technical and academic communities and other relevant stakeholders to be aware of the impact of the latest developments in rapid technological change in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which

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<sup>1</sup> See [E/HLPF/2016/6](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [E/HLPF/2017/4](#).



continue to require international and multi-stakeholder cooperation in order to benefit from opportunities and address challenges in this regard, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities,

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

*Noting with concern* that, recent progress notwithstanding, important and growing divides with regard to science and technology remain between and within developed and developing countries, all of which need to be addressed, inter alia, by encouraging access to science and technology for developing countries, addressing challenges to close the digital divides, ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach and promoting the empowerment of women and girls,

*Recognizing* that the creation, development and diffusion of innovations and new technologies and associated know-how are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development, acknowledging both the transformative and disruptive potential of new technologies, particularly advances in automation, on labour markets and on the jobs of the future, and in this regard seeking to prepare societies and economies for these effects,

*Recognizing also* the central role that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development plays, 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<sup>3</sup> and in 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 emerging and disruptive technologies,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue considering the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>3</sup> in order to benefit from opportunities and address challenges in this regard, and to promote the development of national strategies and public policies, capacity-building and scientific engagement;

2. *Requests* the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and its inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as 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;

3. *Also requests* the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to present its findings, with an evidence-based approach, in this regard at its third multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation, in June 2018;

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution 70/1.

4. *Decides* to include in the programme of the third multi-stakeholder forum a session on the impact of rapid technological change, including in cases in which changes may occur at an exponential pace, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, to include Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, the technical and academic communities and other relevant stakeholders, with support for the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and to be funded from extrabudgetary resources, to discuss the findings of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism on rapid technological change, and encourages the forum and the Commission to take into account the findings therein for their consideration;

5. *Also decides* to continue discussing the topic “Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”, on an exceptional basis, at its upcoming session, in the fourth multi-stakeholder forum, in order to take stock of the outcome of the third forum, and decides to remain seized of the matter, unless otherwise agreed.

*75th plenary meeting  
22 December 2017*