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**SUMMARIES OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO  
MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CDCC**

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**Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (United Nations resolution 56/95)**

The resolution recalled the adoption of the United Nations Declaration as the outcome of the Millennium Summit (held at United Nations Headquarters, 6-8 September 2000). It noted the delivery of a “road-map” by the Secretary-General for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and recommends that “road map” as a useful guide to member States, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other interested parties, when formulating plans for implementing the goals related to the Declaration.

The resolution requests the Secretary-General to produce annual reports which focus on cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues as well as major areas in the “road-map”, while every five years a comprehensive report should be published which examines progress towards implementing all the commitments made in the Declaration.

The resolution invites the United Nations system, in cooperation with member States, “..to adopt specific measures to give widespread publicity to the Millennium Declaration and to increase the dissemination of information on the Declaration”.

**Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (United Nations resolution 56/228)**

The General Assembly recalled its decision contained in resolution 54/262 of 25 May 2000, to convene a Second World Assembly on Ageing in Spain in April 2002 and decided that the Commission for Social Development would act as the preparatory committee for the World Assembly.

The resolution urged that the Assembly give special attention to the linkages between ageing and development and pay particular attention to “...the needs, priorities and perspectives of developing countries.”

The resolution envisages an action-oriented follow up to the International Year of Older Persons (1999) and places emphasis on the nature of the plan to be realistic, relevant and to contain financial recommendations for implementation.

The various arms of the United Nations system are urged to cooperate with each other as consonant with their respective mandates to ensure adequate preparation for the Assembly, the better to "...coordinate their response to the global ageing of populations, and integrate within their respective mandates their programmes and activities related to the elderly, taking into account the importance of the perspectives of older persons".

The resolution also requests that the World Assembly address the question of abuse and discrimination against older persons, invites member States to consider appropriate ways and mechanisms to prepare for the Assembly and also invites "...the regional commissions within their respective mandates, to explore the feasibility of undertaking regional activities with Member States, non governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in their region, to participate in and follow up the Second World Assembly on Ageing".

### **Science and technology for development (United Nations resolution 56/182)**

The resolution takes cognizance of the cross-cutting nature of science and technology within the United Nations system and the need for better policy guidance and better coordination. Further it recognizes "...the importance of establishing and strengthening partnership and networking among the public and private sectors and academic institutions of all countries to build, transfer and strengthen technological capabilities and skills needed, in particular for developing countries".

The resolution notes that globalization is driven by technology and the knowledge of such; however, the skills and institutional structures to facilitate technologies are necessary if countries are to derive any benefit from globalization. Special mention is made of the technologies related to information and communication which are necessary to effectively integrate all countries into the global economy. The resolution also acknowledges the obstacles faced by developing countries while still promoting the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special circumstances of developing countries in this respect.

The resolution further recognizes the need for dissemination of "...research knowledge, technologies and expertise in the field of biotechnology, in particular in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceuticals and health care, that could benefit mankind".

The resolution invites the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to consider means of strengthening the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) including the establishment of a working group to monitor the activities of the Commission.

The resolution stresses the importance of "...facilitating access to and transfer of knowledge and technology on concessional, preferential and favourable terms to the developing countries.." towards enhancing "...their technological capacities, capabilities, productivity and competitiveness in the world market". The resolution draws attention to "barriers" and "unjustifiable restrictions on the transfer of technologies" and the need for

incentives to encourage the transfer of such. Governments are reminded of their responsibilities to create transparent legal and regulatory frameworks to assist these processes.

The resolution notes the proposal by the Commission for a study regarding the feasibility of "...establishing an international mechanism for supporting and enhancing research and development within developing countries and in areas critical to the developing countries, especially in the fields of health, education and agriculture". South-South cooperative ventures are welcomed as well as regional and subregional cooperation in meeting the ideals of the resolution. A report on the impact of new biotechnologies which will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-eight session will also address sustainable development, food security, health and economic productivity, proposals for technology transfer, the need to protect property rights as well as constraints on the adequate utilization of such technologies.

### **Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies (General Assembly resolution 56/121)**

The resolution recognizes the ability of the free flow of information to promote "...economic and social development, education and democratic governance", but expresses concern that the technological advancements have created new possibilities for criminal activity, especially within the sphere of information technology.

This is particularly worrying since information technologies have been used to generate a substantial increase in global cooperation and coordination and therefore the criminal misuse of such can have "...a grave impact on all States".

Acknowledging that gaps in the access to and use of information technologies by States can increase the difficulty in combating criminal misuse of information, there is a need for "...the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries".

There is a need for enhanced cooperation between States and the private sector and among States; the United Nations organizations having a role to play in the latter, to combat the criminal misuse of technology.

The resolution recognises the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth and tenth Sessions and the subsequent preparation of a plan of action against high-technology and computer-related crime.

In view of the above the resolution invites "...Member States, when developing national law, policy and practice to combat the criminal misuse of information technologies, to take into account, as appropriate, the work and achievements of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and of other international and regional organizations".

**Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks (United Nations Assembly resolution 56/13)**

The resolution draws attention to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (10 December 1982) and the agreements that proceed from it, namely, “The Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas” (the “Compliance Agreement”) and the “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries””. It points further to the rights of States over vessels that fly the flags of particular States and the need to promote international cooperation in the conservation, management and long-term sustainability of the living resources of the world’s oceans and seas, while deploring the over-fishing and sparsely regulated fishing efforts that has led to the over-fishing of many straddling and migratory species.

The resolution recognizes “...the obligation of States to cooperate, either directly or through subregional, regional or global organizations, to enhance the ability of developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to conserve and manage straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and to develop their own fisheries for such stocks”.

The resolution draws attention to the adoption by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of an International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which focuses primarily on the responsibility of the flag States to use all legal measures to ensure that their nationals do not support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. States are urged to cooperate as fully as possible in the implementation of this Plan of Action.

The resolution also calls on all States which have not already ratified the UNCLOS III and the Compliance Agreement to do so and to join or form such regional or subregional organizations that will assist in implementing the aforementioned marine agreements and makes the request that “...States...provide assistance to developing States as outlined in the Agreement and notes the importance of participation by representatives of developing States in forums in which fisheries issues are discussed, and once the Agreement enters into force, agrees to review the implementation of the provisions calling for assistance to developing States and to facilitate the establishment of a programme of assistance within the Agreement”. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and organizations as well as those within the United Nations systems are also requested to provide funds or develop special mechanisms or instruments to assist developing States, especially the least developed and small island developing States.

Further the resolution urges all States “...to apply the precautionary approach widely to the management and exploitation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks....”.

### **United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage (United Nations resolution 56/8 )**

The resolution draws attention to conventions and protocols that protect cultural property and heritage and notes the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by 167 State parties and the inscription of more than 690 sites of the World Heritage list.

The resolution asserts the “..importance of protecting the world cultural tangible and intangible heritage as a common ground for the promotion of mutual understanding and enrichment among cultures and civilisations..” and also calls attention to the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which is designated as the lead agency for the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, designated as 2002.

Further, UNESCO is invited to enter into “...collaboration with States, observers, relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, other international organizations and relevant non governmental organizations, to intensify the implementation of programmes, activities and projects aimed at the promotion and protection of the world cultural heritage...”.

The resolution actively promotes funding for activities aimed at the promotion and protection of the natural world heritage and encourages member States and observers to “...promote education and raise public awareness to foster respect for the national and world cultural heritage...”.

### **Human rights education (United Nations resolution 56/147)**

The resolution states the conviction that “..human rights education and information contribute to the concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages, which takes into account particularly vulnerable segments of society of all ages, such as children, youth, older persons, indigenous people, minorities, rural and urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, persons with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and disabled persons...” and that human rights education is key to development. The resolution further urges all governments to develop national strategies for human rights education which are “...comprehensive, participatory and effective...” and promotes “a plan of action for human rights education and part of their national development plan”.

### **Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: Towards a society for all in the twenty-first century (United Nations resolution 56/115)**

The General Assembly recalled the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration (adopted 8 September 2000) which recognized the need “..to

promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities”. The United Nations remains “..Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a society for all.....” and is concerned that enough is not being done worldwide to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities; that armed conflicts have devastating impacts on persons with disabilities and that there is a need for timely and reliable data on disability sensitive topics.

The resolution recognizes the importance of technology, “...in particular information and communications technology (to).....provide(s) new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality.....”and further “Encourages governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate....” to consider “..focusing on accessibility, health, education, social services, including training and rehabilitation, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihoods, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society”. To this end, governments are called upon to take practical actions, including public awareness and allocation of resources to facilitate the implementation of national plans and involve persons with disabilities in eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment.

The resolution specifically urges governments to provide special protection to “..girls and women with disabilities, elderly people with disabilities and persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting their human rights”.

Further the resolution “..encourages governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the Programme of Action and the Standard Rules (on persons with disabilities) ...” for “the promotion of all human rights of, and non –discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities....”

### **Policies and programmes involving youth (United Nations resolution 56/117)**

The resolution recalls documents such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The resolution calls upon “...all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular youth organizations, to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth related issues, upon setting up the ways and means to do so”.



The resolution recognizes the importance of youth empowerment through building the capacity of young persons which will enable independence and overcoming constraints to their full participation and providing opportunities which allow them to make decisions that affect their life and well-being.

The resolution expresses concern over the fact that currently half of the new human immunodeficiency virus infections are in youth aged 15 to 24 years and reaffirms the “..importance of schooling and education, in particular for girls and women, and recognizes the value of all forms of life-long learning, including formal education and training in non-formal education”.

The resolution notes favourably the important role of the United Nations Youth Fund in the implementation of agreed programmes and mandates on youth including “..the provision of support for youth activities promoting South-South cooperation, and support for the participation of young delegates from the least developed countries at the fourth session of the World Youth Forum (Dakar, August 2001), while urging member States to consider including youth representatives to their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings “..thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth related issues”.

### **Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (United Nations resolution 56/113)**

The resolution recognizes that the preparation and observance of the tenth anniversary of the Year of the Family provides an opportunity for drawing attention to the objectives of “....increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development”.

Concern was expressed on the deleterious effects of “difficult social and economic conditions, armed conflicts, natural disasters and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria and of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic on family life...” and emphasis was placed on the equal rights of all family members as essential to the well-being of society at large.

The resolution further urges governments to view 2004 as a target year by which time “..concrete achievements should be made to identify and elaborate issues of direct concern to families.....” while encouraging the regional commissions to participate in the preparatory processes leading to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Year of the Family.

**Special session of the General Assembly on Children (United Nations resolution 56/222)**

The General Assembly noted that it had decided to convene the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children from 19 to 21 September 2001. It, however, took the decision to convene the special session of the General Assembly on Children on the new dates from 8 to 10 May 2002.

**International trade and development (United Nations resolution 56/178)**

The resolution recalls the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 13 November 2001; the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; several reports of the Secretary-General on Trade and Economics, including a report on “Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries” and takes note of the International Conference on Financing for Development to be held at Monterrey, Mexico from 18-22 March 2002.

The document welcomes the decision by the Trade and Development Board to conduct the mid-term review of the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at Bangkok from 29 April to 3 May 2002 and stresses the importance “..of continued substantive consideration of the sub-item on trade and development, under the item entitled ‘Macroeconomic policy questions’ ”.

**Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity (General Assembly resolution 56/181)**

This resolution takes note of the Secretary-General’s report entitled “..International financial architecture and development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries...” and takes note of the deliberations being held in the preparations to the International Conferencing on Financing for Development, stresses “..the importance of continued substantive consideration of the sub-item on the international financial system and development”.

Thus the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report on the international financing system and development at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

**Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries (General Assembly resolution 56/184)**

The General Assembly recalled several resolutions on “..enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing

countries” and considering the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development (to be convened in Monterrey, Mexico from 18 to 22 March 2002) stresses the importance of the “..continued substantive consideration of the sub-item on external debt crisis and development”.

The resolution requests the Secretary-General to report to the fifty seventh session on the external debt crisis and development, bearing in mind the Monterrey Conference and to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General assembly a sub-item entitled “External debt crisis and development” under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”.

### **Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 56/74)**

The resolution recalls the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 14 December 1960 and subsequent resolutions, notes that the period 2001-2010 was the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and reaffirms the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism before 2010.

The resolution notes, however, the pressing need “...of newly independent and emerging States for assistance from the United Nations and its system of organizations in the economic, social and other fields...” and reaffirms that colonialism in any form, including economic exploitation is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, in addition to other documents and affirms its support for the aspirations of all peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self determination, including independence in accordance with United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

The General Assembly requests the Special Committee designed for the purpose of implementing decolonization, to take all necessary steps “....to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations”.

The General Assembly calls upon the administering Powers of colonies to ensure that economic activities do not adversely affect the interests of the people but instead promotes development, to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non self Governing Territories to their natural resources and their human rights and further urges all States through their action in specialized and organizations of the United Nations system to provide moral and material assistance to the people of the Non-Self Governing-Territories and that administering Powers should make use of such assistance and urges cooperation with the United Nations visiting Missions by the administering Powers.

The resolution also requests the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance

to the Non Self Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self determination, including independence.

**Action against transnational organized crime: Assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (General Assembly resolution 56/120)**

The resolution expresses deep concern at the impact of transnational organized crime on the “..political, social and economic stability and development of societies..” and envisages the fight against transnational organized crime as a common and shared responsibility of the international community.

To this end, the resolution urges States to sign on to and ratify the international legal instruments which enable the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related Protocols to be effective.

The resolution also notes the efforts of those States which have pledged financial support to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to initiate measures to implement the relevant protocols and encourages member States to make adequate voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

Thus the resolution “..requests the Secretary General to provide the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat with the resources necessary to enable it to promote in an effective manner, the entry into force of and implementation of the Convention and Protocols thereto, inter alia, through the provision of assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for building capacity in the areas covered by the Convention and the Protocols thereto”.

**Cooperatives in social development (General Assembly resolution 56/114)**

The resolution recognizes that “...cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development ..”.

The resolution encourages governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative procedures that govern cooperatives with a view to creating a supportive environment and protecting and advancing the potential of cooperatives in achieving their goals.

The resolution advises that due “.....consideration be given to the role of cooperatives in the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and their five-year reviews as well as the World Food Summit”. In this context, the potential and contributions of cooperatives can be realized in the areas of poverty eradication, employment generation and enhancement of social integration.

Thus, governments “...in collaboration with the cooperative movement..(should) develop programmes to promote and strengthen the education of members, the elected leadership and the professional cooperative management, where appropriate, and to create or improve statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to national economies”.

Further the resolution “..requests the Secretary General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and the national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and to promote an exchange of experience and best practices, through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels”.