



Seventy-seventh session  
Agenda item 18  
Sustainable development

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 26 April 2023

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/77/L.59)]

### 77/282. Building global resilience and promoting sustainable development through regional and interregional infrastructure connectivity

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage measures for regional cooperation to advance the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

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

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in which it was recognized that investing in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure is a prerequisite for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.



*Welcoming* the convening of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, as well as the adoption of decisions, including the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan,

*Welcoming also* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and recalling the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors, including infrastructure, in line with other relevant international agreements, bearing in mind the impact of this sector on biodiversity,

*Recalling* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>2</sup> which emphasizes the need to promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide life-saving and essential services,

*Recalling also* its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, in which it endorsed the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which emphasizes the need to enhance infrastructure connectivity,

*Recalling further* the ministerial declaration of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development,<sup>3</sup> in which ministers and high representatives affirmed the need to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions, maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development, and underlined that effective solutions are required to achieve resilient and accessible infrastructure development that is climate-sensitive and resource-efficient and that will reduce the risks and impacts of disasters, through stronger coordinated partnerships at all levels, as well as development of risk mitigation measures and expertise,

*Emphasizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and the flow of essential goods and services, and highlighting the need for continued international cooperation to address the issues relating to transport and transit corridors as an important element of sustainable development and connectivity,

*Noting with concern* that the global environment changed dramatically in 2022, with rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts and the current multiple crises, which increased pressure on food, energy and finance, affecting many countries around the world,

*Taking note* of the briefs by the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance on the three-dimensional crisis, and emphasizing the critical role of infrastructure systems in safeguarding the delivery of essential goods and services,

*Expressing its concern* that economic losses due to disasters are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, acknowledging that many disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity, exacerbated by climate change, sea level rise and environmental degradation, impeding progress towards sustainable development, especially in developing countries, and that climate-related shocks and stressors are undermining the stability of infrastructure systems and their ability to operate and provide essential services for communities, especially the most vulnerable, and in this regard welcoming the call by the Secretary-General for the United Nations action plan to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution 69/283.

<sup>3</sup> E/HLS/2017/1.

warning systems within five years, and recalling the launch of the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS),

*Emphasizing* that infrastructure impacts the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and stressing the importance of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for addressing the interconnected social, economic and environmental challenges,

*Highlighting* the need for greater collaboration and partnerships at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and recalling that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

*Recognizing* that infrastructure investments are central to the economic recovery plans of many Governments as a means of creating employment, boosting productivity, addressing inequalities and building resilience to future crises and that enhancing connectivity can contribute to the resilience and stability of global industrial and supply chains and economic diversification, as well as addressing the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and desertification,

*Recognizing also* the need to prioritize, accelerate and scale up quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and promote connectivity of comprehensive and multimodal infrastructure systems and critical services to enhance their adaptive capacity and reduce the risk of cascading infrastructure failure in the event of disasters,

*Recalling* its resolution [69/213](#) of 19 December 2014, entitled “Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development”, its resolution [70/197](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors”, and its resolution [72/212](#) of 20 December 2017, entitled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, in which it recognized that transport infrastructure is central to sustainable development,

*Recalling also* its resolution [77/170](#) of 14 December 2022, entitled “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, in which it emphasized the value of regional and interregional approaches, which can, among other advantages, enhance the deployment of renewable and sustainable energy by facilitating the sharing of experiences, reduce transaction costs, leverage economies of scale, enable greater cross-border interconnectivity to promote energy system reliability and resilience and augment domestic capacity-building, and recognized the work of organizations and initiatives in that regard,

*Recalling further* its resolution [77/150](#) of 14 December 2022, entitled “Information and communications technologies for development”, in which it recognized that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, trade and development, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy, and taking note of the

recommendations of the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>4</sup> to improve digital cooperation,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/213](#) of 17 December 2021, entitled “Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development”, in which it highlights the necessity of science, technology and innovation for infrastructure,

*Recalling also* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/9 of 2 March 2022, entitled “Sustainable and resilient infrastructure”,<sup>5</sup> in which Member States were encouraged to, inter alia, promote investment in infrastructure that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, climate-resilient, resource-efficient, that prevents ecosystem fragmentation and contributes to sustainable production and consumption patterns, thus contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of relevant multilateral environmental agreements,

*Recognizing* the importance of addressing the particular vulnerability of landlocked countries, especially low- and middle-income countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems that link them to international markets, and in this regard reaffirming that the Almaty Declaration,<sup>6</sup> the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>7</sup> constitute a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels, and underlining the critical role of transit countries in this regard,

*Stressing* the importance of enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking the economies of small island developing States to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors, and encouraging sustainable transport initiatives, including in the context of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework,

*Reaffirming* the need to enhance investments in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and recognizing that filling the gap in infrastructure financing requires public and private financing accompanied by technical cooperation, including technical support, skill development, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and in this regard emphasizing the need for technical assistance and capacity-building support for investment promotion and developing project pipelines and bankable projects, in particular for developing countries, as well as addressing investment barriers,

*Noting* the importance of efforts of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular the World Bank and the regional development banks, within their respective mandates, to enhance regional and interregional connectivity and to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure that contributes to sustainable development, and emphasizing the need to further strengthen the coordination of their efforts in this regard,

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<sup>4</sup> [A/75/982](#).

<sup>5</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.9](#).

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex II.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [69/137](#), annexes I and II.

1. *Reaffirms its unwavering commitment* to developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all;
2. *Reaffirms* the strong political commitment to create an enabling environment at all levels, in order to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 9, to facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to them;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing connectivity and the need for rebuilding trust in multilateralism and international partnerships for the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure;
4. *Commits* to enhancing infrastructure connectivity as a means to build resilience to future crises, acknowledges that this can be achieved, inter alia, through enhanced stability of global supply chains, better interconnectedness of multimodal and interoperable transport systems, investment in digitally enabled infrastructure, and trade facilitation, and encourages the continuation and advancement of regional cooperation in this regard, particularly in enhancing transport, energy, and digital infrastructure connectivity, including through closer cooperation in science, education, technology and innovation fields;
5. *Reiterates* the commitment to the development of sustainable regional infrastructure projects that stimulate sustainable economic productivity, promoting equitable growth of regions across the urban-rural continuum, and encourages urban-rural interactions and connectivity by strengthening sustainable transport and mobility, and technology and communications networks and infrastructure, including connectivity between cities and their surroundings, peri-urban and rural areas, as well as greater land-sea connections, where appropriate;
6. *Emphasizes* that infrastructure development should be inclusive, which can be achieved through extensive consultation with affected communities, including on the economic, social and environmental impacts, and encourages Member States to provide opportunities for the engagement of relevant stakeholders, including local communities, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations, in all stages of the process to identify, design, build and maintain infrastructure, and also emphasizes the importance of ensuring affordable and equitable access to infrastructure for all;
7. *Also emphasizes* the need to promote investments in infrastructure that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable;
8. *Further emphasizes* that the natural environment is an integral part of infrastructure systems, and acknowledges that natural infrastructure can include strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, water and soil, such as forests and wetlands, working landscapes and other open spaces that conserve or enhance ecosystem values and functions and provide associated benefits to human populations, and can provide cost-effective and resilient alternatives or complements to built infrastructure;
9. *Calls for* efforts to promote regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation, including by improving transportation infrastructure, enhancing connectivity and facilitating trade and investment, and reiterates its call upon States to ensure the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and cross-border travel for essential purposes, and to enhance the sustainability and resilience of supply chains;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of cooperation in establishing safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport networks supported by inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and commits to enhancing the role of sustainable transport in job creation, mobility facilitation and improvement of the efficiency of logistics chains in connecting people and communities, particularly people in vulnerable situations, thus providing all with equal opportunities and leaving no one behind;

11. *Encourages* Governments, relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders to promote investments in developing sustainable, reliable, modern, inclusive and equitable energy systems, inter alia, by strengthening energy systems through cross-border grid connections, as appropriate, and to reinforce their energy interconnections, connect regional energy markets and increase energy security at the global level, and acknowledges the efforts towards enhancing the stability and reliability of energy supplies to minimize the risks of disruptions;

12. *Recognizes* the contribution of digitalization to development and that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy, expresses concern that substantial digital divides and inequalities exist within and among countries and regions and between developed and developing countries, which may worsen if the digitalization of the economy and rapid progress in science, technology and innovation are not carefully managed, and commits to redoubling efforts to ensure universal and affordable Internet access, by enhancing investment in digital infrastructure, digital skills training and digital literacy, as well as through targeted policies, especially for women and girls, youth and persons with disabilities, to close digital divides within and between countries and build an open, free and secure digital world;

13. *Also recognizes* that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in engaging with and accessing new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, setting standards and technology flows, and in this regard urges all stakeholders to consider ensuring appropriate financing of digital development and adequate means of implementation, including strengthened capacity-building of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, towards a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to enhance resilience of digital infrastructure, and in this regard recognizes that digital networks and systems should be deployed with consideration of technological hazards and risks and that, in enhancing infrastructure connectivity and digital services, it is important to increase investments in the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies;

15. *Recognizes* the vital role of science, technology and innovation to improve the capacity of existing infrastructure, reduce maintenance and operating costs, and design new quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and encourages enhanced infrastructure capacity-building support for developing countries and the promotion of joint research and development projects between countries for infrastructure;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the exchange of expertise, experience and technology on mutually agreed terms in promoting sustainable development, including through access to clean energy technology and disaster risk reduction strategies, and enhancing cooperation, including through initiatives that address environmental challenges and contribute to the protection of the environment and ecosystems, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards;

17. *Recognizes* that addressing the investment needs in developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure requires significant targeted investment from international and domestic public and private sectors accompanied by technical cooperation as well as overcoming investment barriers, including high perceived and real risks related to sustainable investments in low- and middle-income countries and the lack of pipelines of bankable sustainable projects, also recognizes the need for technical assistance and capacity-building support for investment promotion and developing project pipelines and bankable projects, in particular for developing countries, emphasizes the importance of strengthening national and international policy environments and regulatory frameworks as well as ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of infrastructure projects, notes that more can be done to create competitive business and investment climates, and encourages the use of innovative tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sectors, special purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled financing structures;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of implementation of standards, guidelines and best practices relating to infrastructure development, in line with respective national legal frameworks, and encourages Member States to consider integrating them into national policies;

19. *Takes note* of the Group of 20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, which are a set of voluntary and non-binding principles adopted by the Group of 20;

20. *Also takes note* of the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure, developed as part of the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/5 of 15 March 2019 on sustainable infrastructure;<sup>8</sup>

21. *Notes* the importance of sound infrastructure governance over the life cycle of the projects to ensure the long-term cost-effectiveness, economic efficiency, accountability, transparency and integrity of infrastructure investment, including through an open procurement process;

22. *Emphasizes* that effective operation, monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure systems, including through the use of innovative technologies, are essential to ensuring economic efficiency, quality, resilience and uninterrupted provision of essential services, and encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, ensure that infrastructure plans are aligned to disaster risk reduction strategies and risk assessments at all levels, make multi-hazard disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure, routinely conduct stress testing of existing infrastructure and ensure that pipeline and bankable projects include multi-hazard and other measures that assess, prevent and mitigate risks;

23. *Takes note* of the principles for resilient infrastructure,<sup>9</sup> and recognizes that they can support the development and implementation of disaster risk-informed and resilient infrastructure strategies, projects, regulations and policies at the local, national and regional levels and can contribute to a common understanding among the public and private sectors of resilient design standards for critical components of infrastructure systems based on scientific evidence of risks;

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<sup>8</sup> [UNEP/EA.4/Res.5](#).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Principles for resilient infrastructure", 2022.

24. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to support the capacity-building of developing countries in their efforts to close the Sustainable Development Goals investment gaps, especially at the country programme level, on the use of public finance to leverage private investment for projects benefiting sustainable development, and encourages the exploration of innovative platform approaches to coordinating, scaling up and channelling public and private finance and technical assistance for quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development;

25. *Invites* United Nations agencies, as well as regional and multilateral organizations, such as international financial institutions, along with development partners, such as multilateral and regional development banks, in line with their respective mandates, to promote and facilitate connectivity and regional integration through quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and through enhanced financial, technological and technical support, in particular to developing countries;

26. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to hold a one-day informal dialogue of the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, within existing resources, on the topic of building global resilience and promoting sustainable development through infrastructure connectivity, which could serve as an opportunity for presenting proposals to contribute to enhancing investments in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including the possibility of establishing policy platforms under United Nations auspices.

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