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Sustainable development

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[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/76/L.68](#) and [A/76/L.68/Add.1](#))]

76/295. Strengthening connectivity between Central and South Asia

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 the commitment to accelerating collective economic, social and environmental solutions for a better recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the decade of action,

Welcoming the international conference on the theme “Central and South Asia: regional connectivity – challenges and opportunities”, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in July 2021, and taking note of the joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central and South Asian States adopted at that conference,¹

¹ [A/75/948](#), annex.



Stressing the importance of strengthening cooperation for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,² which are based on the establishment of new, stronger partnerships between these countries and transit countries and their development partners at all levels,

Recalling the first United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in November 2016, and the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in Beijing, China, in October 2021,

Recognizing that quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient connectivity based on stability plays a key role in trade, economic growth and sustainable development and enhances regional and international cooperation,

Emphasizing the importance of transport and transit corridors for accelerating economic growth, increasing the efficiency of trade and economic ties between the countries of Central and South Asia, and realizing their unique transport, transit and investment potential,

Stressing the importance of the comprehensive and progressive development of ties between Central and South Asia in areas of mutual interest, on the basis of mutual trust and the full benefit of all, in a spirit of global solidarity, and for the common future of present and coming generations, in promoting infrastructure connectivity and sustainable transport, as well as regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation,

Acknowledging the important role of regional organizations in enhancing interregional and intraregional connectivity, and in this regard noting the proclamation by the Economic Cooperation Organization of 2022 as the Year of Strengthening Connectivity,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation between Central and South Asia in finding ways to enhance poverty alleviation and food security, among others, including through agricultural technologies and digitalization that can increase food security by improving the sustainability of storage, transport, trade, processing, transformation, retail, waste reduction and recycling, as well as interactions among these processes,

1. *Reaffirms* that regional cooperation is an effective form of multilateralism and international cooperation contributing to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of cooperation in establishing safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport networks supported by inclusive and sustainable industrialization and information technologies with a view to achieving transport connectivity across Central and South Asia that is economically, socially and environmentally viable and financially sustainable, and is resilient to unexpected emergencies;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of effective border management in promoting connectivity among the countries and the role of international cooperation in this regard;

4. *Encourages* the continuation and advancement of cooperation between Central and South Asia by expanding transport and information and communications technologies infrastructure and creating new international transport corridors that

² Resolution [69/137](#), annexes I and II.

open convenient, sustainable, commercially viable, affordable, accessible, inclusive and safe routes to seaports;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of Afghanistan's potential role in connecting Central and South Asia, as well as its economic development and integration into interregional economic processes for lasting peace and stability;

6. *Also recognizes* the importance of multimodal transport for connectivity of Central and South Asia, and in this context encourages the development of interoperability of infrastructure to enhance air, land and sea connectivity among countries;

7. *Stresses* the need to promote cooperation between civil aviation authorities in the regions for enhancing regional connectivity and economic cooperation;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map for digital cooperation",³ which calls for every person to have safe and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, including meaningful use of digitally enabled services, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard recognizes the importance of coordination among the countries of Central and South Asia on the widespread introduction of digital economy, connectivity infrastructure and platforms through information and communications technologies;

9. *Notes* the contribution of mutual exchange and learning through experience between Central and South Asia in the study, preservation and strengthening of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage for the popularization of the richness of historical and cultural contacts between the two regions;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing potential tourist routes covering the historical and cultural centres of the Central and South Asian States;

11. *Supports* the efforts of Central and South Asia to further strengthen relationships between the regions and their people, including in the fields of education, science and technology, innovation, tourism, culture, art and sports;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of energy connectivity between Central and South Asia;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the exchange of experience on voluntary and mutually agreed terms between Central and South Asia 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;

14. *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;

15. *Recognizes* the significant potential of regional economic integration and interconnectivity to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development, commits to strengthening regional cooperation and regional trade agreements, reaffirms the importance of strengthening coherence and consistency among bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements and ensuring that they are compatible with World Trade Organization rules, and encourages multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure, including completing missing

³ A/74/821.

links connecting landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States within regional networks to ensure quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient connectivity;

16. *Reaffirms* the interests of Central and South Asia to continue to work on the development of regional connectivity to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁴

17. *Invites* Member States to consolidate their efforts in the fight against common challenges and threats to stability and security in Central and South Asia.

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11 July 2022*

⁴ Resolution 70/1.