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Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 May 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.84](#) and [A/75/L.84/Add.1](#))]

75/279. International Year of Glass, 2022

The General Assembly,

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, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement,¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

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

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.



Reaffirming its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling its resolution [75/231](#) of 21 December 2020, in which it recognizes that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia, philanthropy and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important in order to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources and complement the efforts of Governments,

Recalling also its resolution [73/17](#) of 26 November 2018, in which it encourages Member States to continue to consider the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets in order to benefit from opportunities and address challenges, promote the development of national strategies and public policies, science, technology and innovation road maps, capacity-building and scientific engagement, and share best practices,

Recognizing that glass has accompanied humankind for centuries, enriching the quality of life of millions, and that, as one of the most important, versatile and transformative materials of history, glass is an important component in many areas, including in aerospace and the automotive sector, architecture, the arts, information and communications technology, energy, health care, laboratory work, optics and packaging and storage,

Considering the opportunities that glass, glass-related technologies and further innovations in this area can provide in modern applications, including but not limited to display panels and ultra-thin sensor glass, fibre-optic cables, laboratory equipment, lenses and optical microscopes, medical equipment, pharmaceutical use, photovoltaic glass, reinforced plastics and insulation,

Recognizing that, although the production of glass is an energy-intensive activity with major historical and ongoing environmental impacts, glass can serve as an alternative to plastics and other materials and has the potential to contribute to the implementation of sustainable production and consumption patterns,

Considering the progress made in glass manufacturing to reduce energy consumption, atmospheric emissions and other environmental impacts, and the opportunities to enhance sustainability in the glass industry, enhance efficiencies in glass production, advance the sustainable use of natural resources, including sand, and shift to using renewable energies,

Encouraging Member States to advance innovative pathways to achieving sustainable consumption and production in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/1 of 15 March 2019,³ and to promote sustainable consumer behaviour and consumption patterns, including glass reuse and recycling and other associated practices,

Considering that the International Year of Glass, 2022 will underline the technological, scientific, economic, environmental, historical and artistic role of glass in our societies, emphasizing the rich possibilities of developing technologies and their potential contribution to meeting the challenges of sustainable development and inclusive societies, achieving world economic recovery and building back better from

³ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#).

the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and bringing together the threads of technology, social history and art through educational programmes and museum exhibitions,

Considering also that the celebration of the International Year of Glass in 2022 provides an opportunity to promote the contribution of the science and technology community to sustainable development and in promoting the empowerment, participation and contribution of women, and of girls through education, in science, technology and innovation,

Welcoming that the International Year of Glass, 2022 can facilitate the exchange of best practices and the creation of partnerships between key stakeholders to support developing countries in achieving sustainability in the glass industry, creating jobs and improving livelihoods, and that it can help to identify priority investment opportunities, capacity-building needs, and mechanisms for equitable technology transfer,

Noting the support of the International Commission on Glass, the Community of Glass Associations and the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Glass to promote the International Year of Glass, 2022, gathering more than 1,300 endorsements from the sector in 78 countries,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2022 as the International Year of Glass;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe the International Year, in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through activities aimed at raising awareness of and directing policy attention to the importance of glass in daily life;

3. *Stresses* that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met by voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

4. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and to provide other forms of support for the International Year;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

66th plenary meeting
18 May 2021