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Agenda item 14

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 August 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.126/Rev.1](#)
and [A/75/L.126/Rev.1/Add.1](#))]

75/318. World Cotton Day

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 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, in particular 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 day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming further 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,

Considering the historical importance of cotton as a global commodity and the vital role that cotton plays in several Member States by providing livelihoods and as a subsistence crop for millions of people and its broader economic and social impacts around the world, and recognizing the local and cultural heritage associated with cotton production and the interlinkage between local production methods and the quality of cotton varieties,

Recognizing that the proclamation of World Cotton Day will contribute to increased awareness of the international community about the importance of the contribution of the sustainable cotton sector to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming the relevance of the sectoral Cotton Initiative, launched in 2003 at the World Trade Organization to improve market access opportunities for cotton and cotton-related products from least developed countries and to substantially reduce any trade-distorting effects of undue measures in international cotton trade and to intensify discussions on factors negatively impacting cotton trade and markets,

Reaffirming also the importance of development assistance programmes and efforts to improve cotton production capacity in developing countries, in order to foster their cotton supply chain industries,

Taking into consideration development assistance activities related to cotton production, processing, marketing and consumption provided by the international community and aimed at contributing to poverty reduction strategies and other development-oriented projects as well as towards increasing the standard of living of the poorest and most vulnerable among those engaged in the cotton value chain sector, and cotton by-products, particularly in developing and least developed countries,

Convinced of the importance of a global celebration dedicated to cotton production and the promotion of reliable cotton value chains, which would serve to draw attention to the hundreds of millions of people around the world who earn their livelihoods through their work in cotton production and related industries,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 7 October of each year as World Cotton Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to observe World Cotton Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the importance of cotton production, processing, marketing and consumption, the specific related challenges and the emerging opportunities, especially for developing countries and least developed countries;

3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with all relevant organizations, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Trade Organization, the International Trade Centre and the International Cotton Advisory Committee, to facilitate the observance of World Cotton Day, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67;

4. *Recognizes* the role of women in the cotton sector and the importance of biotechnology in both sustainable cotton production and economic development, and underscores the need to increase cultivation of organic cotton and for gender-sensitive technical assistance programmes and projects in developing countries;

5. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders and interested organizations to raise the visibility of the cotton sector and awareness of the critical role that it plays in economic development, international trade and poverty alleviation, highlighting the importance of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Encourages* Member States, through the observance of World Cotton Day, to hold discussions to ensure that people in developing countries in general, and least developed countries in particular, benefit from the earnings and results of cotton production and cotton processing in an appropriate manner;

7. *Invites* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as academia, and the private sector, to promote synergies in their areas of expertise, in order to contribute to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and minimize the adverse impacts of the production, processing, marketing and consumption of cotton and cotton-related products;

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

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the United Nations system bodies, other institutions, organizations and entities, as well as civil society organizations, the private sector and academia for effective and appropriate observance.

99th plenary meeting
30 August 2021