



Documentation of the work of the **General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)** NMUN simulation*



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—
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General Assembly Second Committee (GA2)

Committee Staff

Director	Eric Lowe
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Chair	Jean Roody Fleuranvil

Agenda

1. Rural Economic Development
2. Minimizing Economic Shock in a Globalized Economy

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
GA2/1/1	Rural Economic Development	55-22-17
GA2/1/2	Rural Economic Development	53-20-19
GA2/1/3	Rural Economic Development	44-28-20
GA2/1/4	Rural Economic Development	67-8-17
GA2/1/5	Rural Economic Development	68-5-19
GA2/1/6	Rural Economic Development	70-8-14
GA2/1/7	Rural Economic Development	69-8-15

Summary Report

The General Assembly Second Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Rural Economic Development
- II. Minimizing Economic Shock in a Globalized Economy

The session was attended by representatives of 91 Member States and one Observer.

On Monday, delegates engaged in formal and informal debate to deliberate the order of topics, which was later set by a close vote as I, II. The rest of the time was used to engage discussion on the topic of "Rural Economic Development," wherein delegates split themselves into working groups and worked on various aspects of the topic.

By Tuesday, Member States had begun to express the specifics of their position in speeches and working papers. The Dais received a total of 13 working papers covering a wide range of issues related to rural economic development, such as education, energy, infrastructure, microfinance, agriculture, and the situation of women and girls in rural areas. They proposed a variety of ideas to tackle the problem including expert bodies, reforms of the global financial system, increased cooperation, and data sharing.

The following day, delegates worked tirelessly to improve their papers while assessing where their ideas and work overlapped. This led to multiple combinations, bringing the total number of working papers to six. On Thursday, delegates further improved the merged papers that were ultimately approved by the Secretariat. A last-minute submission of a working paper resulted in seven draft resolutions, all of which were adopted by the committee.



Code: GA2/1/1

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Reaffirming its commitment to *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 through resolution 70/1,

Conscious of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN DESA) 2021 *World Social Report*, which stated that rural development is crucial to both the eradication of poverty and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and its goal to eliminate poverty, end hunger, and achieve sustainable development through the promotion of inclusive economic growth, environmental protection, and social inclusion,

Reiterating the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* of 1996, which stresses the need to include the perspectives of rural people in the internal policy-making processes of Member States,

Deeply concerned that the United Nations lacks a specialized commission to coordinate rural economic development efforts,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 76/140 of 2021 entitled "Improvement of the Situation of Women and Girls in Rural Areas," which called for a gender perspective in development efforts,

Acknowledging the lack of integrated data necessary to respond to persistent rural economic challenges, specifically relating to ethnicity, race, and gender,

Realizing that resolution 72/139 on "Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society" passed in 2017 and encouraged a multi-stakeholder approach to tackle the crucial issues facing the global community,

Affirming the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in engaging and advocating for rural economic development,

Highlighting the cooperation between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the third United Nations Conference on Financing and Development in securing funding for the AAAA as described in the Background Paper by the Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF (BP/20-01/03),

Acknowledging regulation 3.12 of the *Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations*, which establishes the framework for voluntary contributions for United Nations organizations by Member States,

Recognizing that special drawing rights (SDRs) are an interest-bearing international reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 to augment the official reserves of its member countries and that they are a claim on the freely usable currencies of its members and are based on a basket of international currencies which include the United States dollar, the Japanese yen, the European euro, the pound sterling, and the Chinese renminbi,

Highlighting that SDR-based funding works through the reallocation of the SDRs given to Member States individually following the line of the funding of AAAAA,

1. *Establishes* the Commission for Rural Economic Development to accomplish the following goals:
 - a. Building the capacity of Member States to collect economic data such as but not limited to:
 - i. Economic and agricultural indicators, such as income, consumer spending, crop yield, crop losses, and gender distribution within industries, that are disaggregated between rural and urban regions;
 - ii. Breakdowns of the collected data based on ethnicity and race, indigenouness, gender, and income level;
 - b. Integrating the collected information into an online database that will be updated biannually to facilitate international policymaking and to facilitate cooperation, specifically through:
 - i. Publishing the data collected by Member States;
 - ii. Providing input and feedback on the data for Member States so that it may be used to inform their internal rural economic development policies and programs;
 - iii. Disseminating the data widely to all stakeholders, including Member States, UN organizations, NGOs, and rural communities;
 - c. Focusing on developing recommendations for a broad range of rural economic issues, including but not restricted to:
 - i. Agricultural production and technology, especially concentrating on small-scale sustainable production and farming methods;
 - ii. Physical infrastructure, including transportation and healthcare facilities;
 - iii. Educational facilities;
 - iv. Digital technologies like the provision of internet;
 - v. Rural tourism;
 - vi. Competitiveness of rural economies;
 - d. Encouraging Member States to develop a favorable regulatory environment that supports private sector investment and entrepreneurship in rural areas by simplifying business registration procedures, reducing bureaucracy, and improving the quality of public services;
 - e. Promoting public-private partnerships in the development of rural economic development projects, through recommending policies such as:
 - i. Creating tax incentives and subsidies for private sector investment in rural areas;
 - ii. Supporting entrepreneurship by simplifying business registration procedures,

- i. The Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas;
 - ii. The Network of Rural Women Producers;
 - iii. The Rural Development Foundation Global;
 - iv. And the Network of Rural Development Journalists and Communicators;
 - c. Officeholders in relevant government positions from each Member State;
 - d. Other UN organizations, including but not limited to: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment, United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations Fund for Agricultural Development;
6. *Decides* that the Commission will submit a biennial report to the General Assembly following each Summit on Rural Economic Development that provides an update on the following subjects:
 - a. The discussions and recommendations made by the various stakeholders who attended the Summit on Rural Economic Development, including rural community members, NGOs, government officials, and UN organizations, and how these discussions and recommendations informed the work of the Commission during the past reporting period;
 - b. The work of the Commission during the past reporting period;
 - c. Challenges faced by Member States in implementing rural economic development policies and programs, and strategies to overcome these challenges;
 - d. Best practices and success stories in rural economic development, and their potential for replication in other regions or countries.



Code: GA2/1/2

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Acknowledging research done by the World Bank, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that recognizes the systemic failure of Structural Adjustment Programs and other conditional aid policies and the subsequent reality that local and regional authorities are best aware of the needs and challenges that their counties face, especially in rural areas,

Recalling its resolution 41/128, the “Declaration on the Right to Development”, that recognizes the plurality of facets of development, their equality towards each other and elevates the voices promoting different perspectives on development,

Acknowledging the contribution of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and its work in ensuring that people receive necessary protection in order to maintain functioning societies and human rights internationally,

Appreciating the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and its work towards fighting poverty and inequality in the agricultural sector and rural communities like the International Aid Transparency Initiative,

Referring to the research published in the *Global Sustainable Development Report* (GSDR) regarding financial reform in the international development sphere and the need for institutional reform across all bodies in order to prevent financial misuse as it evolves with modern technology,

Underscoring the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in March 2023, where it was established that the 46 countries in the least developed category have been handed “the rawest of deals” and that there is an inherent imbalance of power between donor countries and those receiving foreign aid as described in the *Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031*,

Reiterating the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* of 1996 that stresses the need of making rural voices heard in the national policy-making processes,

Identifying the need for further support directed towards agricultural and rural communities that are struggling with issues related to systemic poverty and health crises around the world and the fact that rural communities that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, hunger, access to education, health care, and social services as stated in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s *Regional Outlook 2021*,

Recognizing that all Member States have ideas worth sharing and protecting under the mandate of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the unique needs of every nation and diverse community should be represented as every culture is worth preserving and empowering,

Emphasizing the importance of the inherent nature of development in the context of successfully obtaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that ultimately it is the local people and institutions that know best what those people need in order to achieve successful development strategies and progress towards achieving the SDGs,

Acknowledging the fact that every nation has a right to be wrong, and that it is only through a combination of development based on “socially robust” scientific research and local knowledge that development projects can be successful,

Acknowledging that, in accordance with reports from the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, a collaboration between the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), occasionally funds provided for aid are misappropriated by current administrations in control of any given Member State, and there still exists a need for oversight and preventing the misuse of development-based aid, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) research acknowledging the reality that, in developing countries, funds lost to corruption are estimated at 10 times the amount of official development assistance,

Seeing that states that fail to meet the conditions of their aid-givers are limited in their capacity to achieve important milestones in development and thus perpetuate a narrative of exploitation as recognized by the Bretton Woods Project non-governmental organization in 2019,

Identifying that the 2004 *United Nations Convention Against Corruption* remains important and applicable especially within the context of funds being used to promote the SDGs,

Identifying the work of the United Nations Journal entitled the *Forum on Crime and Society* and its honorable goals of limiting violence and corruption in the world-wide community,

1. *Strongly recommends* limiting the amount of restrictions and conditionalities put on Member States receiving aid;
2. *Invites* Member States to establish development goals that do not contradict the culture or sovereignty of nations receiving foreign aid in order to equalize the current imbalance of power between nations, as identified by the United Nations, by:
 - a. Asking the ICJ to extend its responsibilities to mediating disputes between nations giving and receiving aid while prioritizing peace and equality as its resources allow;
 - b. Inviting IFAD to not only identify Member States most in need of poverty reduction in rural areas, but also keep a record of all Member States and NGOs that are providing aid, or influence, in the country as a means of supporting the fight against rural poverty;
 - c. Encouraging creativity and innovation amongst all Member States and a protection of their ideas through strengthening WIPO;
3. *Endorses* the reform of global financial systems as referenced in the GSDR that are currently working on financial assistance to countries, and addressing international inequity in order to ensure that the work of such institutions is based on current research done in the field of international development, utilizing practices that prioritize the right of receiving Member States to make decisions that best fit their need and reality;
4. *Encourages* Member States and United Nations organizations to continue to pursue reasonable policies around the world to ensure that aid and development resources are effective in supporting their targeted populations and not being allocated to people blatantly disconnected from the resource’s intended purpose by:
 - a. Affirming the findings of Oxfam’s 96th briefing document that, in spite of prior commitments by the World Bank and the IMF, developmental aid is still being utilized to influence developing countries to implement inappropriate, and sometimes ineffective, economic policies;

- b. Recommending that developmental aid should be linked to broad poverty reduction goals, as it would de-incentivize pushing specific conditional policies;
 - c. Asking UNODC to investigate potential cases of the misuse of said funds relating to the SDGs, as their resources allow;
 - d. Supporting “good governance” policies as outlined and defined by UNODC;
5. Invites the UNDP to create a definition for “foreign aid conditionality,” which is currently lacking within the international community;
6. *Calls upon* the UNDP to create a set of standards to help ensure that donor institutions and Member States do not, intentionally or unintentionally, provide excessive conditions placed on foreign aid and thus undermine the receiving nation’s capacity to determine what is right and best for them within the context of development in rural regions.



Code: GA2/1/3

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling Article 17 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which states that the General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialized agencies with a view to making recommendations to the agencies concerned, while also respecting the importance of Article 2 and Article 51 emphasizing national sovereignty,

Reaffirming United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), which articulates the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), which contains universal and transformative human-oriented Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and objectives hence evidencing the United Nations commitment to work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Considering United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/183 (2022), “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which emphasizes that economic growth continues to leave rural dwellers behind, and that, in 2018, 80% of the people living in extreme poverty lived in rural areas and 35% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lived on less than US \$2.15 per day,

Deeply concerned by the general lack of progress towards the United Nations SDGs, specifically SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals),

Acknowledging the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) *World Economic Outlook Report*, in which global growth is projected to be nearly cut in half from 6.1% to 3.6%, largely due to the complications caused by the COVID-19 crisis which has a disproportionate impact on rural areas relative to more urbanized areas,

In accordance with the Foundation for International Community Assistance description of microfinance, which states that “microfinance refers to the financial services provided to low-income individuals or groups who are typically excluded from traditional banking, most microfinance institutions focus on offering credit in the form of small working capital loans, sometimes called microloans or microcredit,”

Understanding that microfinance companies are non-state affiliated, follow the laws and procedures of the Member State where the microfinance companies reside, and are primarily invested in by local and regional banks or public state actors,

Emphasizing the need for greater access to microfinance, including microcredit, in least developed countries (LDCs), which will contribute to increased productivity and development,

Hoping to raise global awareness by conducting discussions surrounding the need to address exploitive lending strategies utilized by certain microloan companies, which have perpetuated systemic poverty and inhibited progress towards achieving the SDGs within the 2030 Agenda,

Observing that rural communities are in need of multiple investments, which creates the possibility of predatory, damaging, and coercive lending that can harm rural areas,

Having studied the importance of strategies enforcing the prevention of the spread of perpetual poverty by regulating the growth of aggressive microloan financing which feeds off of persons stuck in systemic debt,

Noting with approval the successes of microfinance institutions, including the Grameen Bank which lists a total of US \$36.2 billion of cumulative loans at a 99.6% repayment rate, Germany's microcredit grant program with a 90% acceptance rate, and Switzerland and Estonia's pay-for-percent style microloans that set payment plans and allow loans to be paid in ethical and equitable ways,

Taking into consideration Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) research, *Which Farms Feed the World and how Farmland Become More Concentrated* (2021), which states that small family farms produce 80% of the world's food and are more sustainable, organic, and environmentally-friendly than corporate conglomerate farms,

Commending the European Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy, which works towards resilience and sustainability on all levels of the food system,

Emphasizing the effectiveness of solidarity loans, allowing individuals to borrow collectively and providing upwards economic mobility to both themselves and their community,

Directing attention to the prevention of perpetual poverty by refraining from monetary manipulation to keep persons of the global community stuck in systemic debt,

Stressing that the interest rates of microloans for marginalized people and communities should be lowered,

Keeping in mind the utmost importance of youth education and opportunity in both developed and developing states as outlined by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Recognizing the need for increased rural electrification efforts in order to provide rural areas with the electricity and infrastructure they need to increase their economic output,

Expressing appreciation for the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979), specifically as it applies to the inclusion of women in rural economic development,

Understanding that states are at the discretion of their own sovereignty to participate in lending and investment practices,

1. *Encourages* cooperation between the IMF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank for the recommendations of a new class of microfinance institutions referred to as "micro-banks," which would:
 - a. Operate in cooperation with national banks and treasuries of Member States, in order to further facilitate non-predatory microfinance programs;
 - b. Be licensed by domestic treasury institutions and comptroller offices to undertake microlending;
 - c. Be subordinated to enhanced supervision by the World Bank in order to develop microlending regulations at an international level;
2. *Proposes* cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with transparent lending, such as Transparency International, Oxfam, and Global Financial Integrity, among others to monitor and advise international microloan programs such as Grameen Bank, Building Resources Across Communities International (BRAC), the German Microfinance Institution (DMI), and Kiva;

3. *Further promotes* ethical microfinance education with the goal of furthering public understanding about the dangers of aggressive microloans and how they can be detrimental to rural communities, utilizing a diverse international marketing strategy combining both traditional and digital strategies, including:
 - a. Promoting the benefits of ethical and equitable microloan policies and practices to rural communities, as well as the benefit of research on banks and institutions before accepting loans;
 - b. Understanding the need to undermine aggressive microloan companies that are actively perpetuating systemic poverty around the world, directly correlated to the static progress of SDG 1;
 - c. Advocating for the use of technology to aid in the economic education of borrowers to ensure their understanding of loan repayment processes, business revenue, and intelligent economic transactions moving forward;
 - d. Utilizing advertisements on physical education material services such as free promotional classes, brochures, and speaker sessions;
 - e. Using digital streaming services, social media, and traditional television ads;
 - f. Noting that the educational mediums mentioned are suggestions and that Member States may choose to educate via all or one of the aforementioned mediums;

4. *Endorses* the creation of an annual High Level Forum on Microfinance starting December 2023, with multi-level actors including NGOs, such as Grameen Bank, BRAC, Women's Microfinance Initiative, and the DMI among others that are active in the microfinance space, as well as Member States, hosted by the General Assembly Second Committee in a location the Secretary-General deems appropriate, funded by voluntary contributions by Member States, and tasked with drafting a report to address the disparity caused by loans and other financial instruments with agenda topics including:
 - a. Addressing the predatory nature of the aforementioned loans in rural areas;
 - b. Strengthening the position of marginalized groups in affected areas and guaranteeing a fair salary for an extensive improvement of rural economies;
 - c. Supporting the approach of regional groups to ensure sustainable and equitable distribution of financial instruments;
 - d. Establishing oversight by NGOs to ensure compliance with these instruments to allow for international transparency;
 - e. Discussing the role of positive microfinance for the purpose of equity and inclusion, agriculture technologies, public infrastructure, evolution of technology, and promoting growth of businesses located in developing rural areas;
 - f. Ensuring information is accessible for and usable by farmers of all economic conditions;
 - g. Providing financial means to ensure food supplies, the preservation of natural resources, as well as rural landscapes;
 - h. Developing a medical fund for citizens of rural areas;

- i. Establishing oversight requirements for actions taken in the High Level Forum on Microfinance;
 - j. Opening a dialogue to strengthen regional cooperation of states which are challenging aggressive microloan firms and hoping to achieve SDG 1;
 - k. Discussing how artificial intelligence will be used in and impact microloans in improving risk assessment, fraud detection, and managing creditworthiness;
 - l. Encouraging and promoting policies to be implemented in Member States to ensure the success of the SDGs by reducing the negative effects of the practices of microloan companies;
 - m. Ensuring that those harshly affected by COVID-19 microloans find a way to make their way out of poverty;
 - n. Encouraging Member States to protect persons from falling further into perpetual poverty;
 - o. Producing a report on the activities of the body and any other documentation that they find relevant;
5. *Establishes* a voluntary regional funding procedural council, such as the 2006 Communal Council Law presented by Venezuela, to approach microfinance as a regional community, allowing for communities to hold each other accountable and approach ethical and equitable solutions;
6. *Encourages* Member States who receive microlending from NGOs to motivate farmers to set aside 25% of their farmlands for organic farms, in line with the European Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy, by inviting Member States who receive lending to research and implement water, soil, recycling, and waste sustainability programs;
7. *Encourages* cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development to form additional programs in order to provide a form of low-cost loans to non-governmental groups working internationally to expand electrical access in rural areas, eliminating financial barriers to electrification;
8. *Further Encourages* Member States to implement market-correcting payments to incentivize investors to take the additional cost and risk of financing early-stage small and medium enterprises to fill the credit gap from commercial lenders;
9. *Requests* that Member States review and revise their own microfinance policy moving towards a more equitable and multilateral approach of microlending methods that protects rural communities from further being entrapped in a cycle of poverty by predatory practices and supporting LDCs by using ethical microfinance policies to stimulate economic growth in rural areas;
10. *Further requests* Member States of the Global North to contribute significant information sharing, following the principles of the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System, allowing all Member States to develop resilient and state-backed microlending systems, while keeping in mind information sharing is voluntary;
11. *Emphasizes* that actions taken by the United Nations or any other associated body will not infringe upon the rights and sovereignty of Member States as stipulated in the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945);

12. *Invites* Member States to institute fiscal policies targeting microloan companies that often see a profit of 40-70% on their loans or have interest rates of 1% or more per day, specifically by:
 - a. Isolating these companies away from the governments, which will send a message that the United Nations will not endorse perpetual poverty;
 - b. Requesting countries that endorse this resolution maintain within the maximum bounds of the previously stated average, noting that the universal average interest rate is 4-9%;
13. *Directs* attention to the prevention of perpetual poverty by refraining from monetary manipulation to keep persons of the global community stuck in systemic debt;
14. *Endorses* the implementation of solidarity loans along with collateral-free microloans in the interest of lowering barriers of entry on credit;
15. *Further recommends* the expansion of existing programs of advisory services within international lending agencies, such as the World Bank, to facilitate the training of economic advisors to promote greater regional autonomy in the use of development funds, providing the country with cutting edge knowledge on best practices for underdeveloped areas.



Code: GA2/1/4

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Appreciating the fact that women play a major role in their households and communities by achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and promoting overall well-being,

Conscious of the fact that women in rural areas remain affected by poverty, discrimination, and exploration, as stated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and do not have the same access to employment opportunities as their male counterparts,

Alarmed by the unpaid domestic and care work that women are required to do, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted by the *World's Women 2020* report created by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA),

Taking into account that, in order to empower women to uplift their communities, women must have adequate access to land and with associated land rights,

Recognizing the success of India's local programs empowering women in rural communities to implement warm climate-resilient resilient farming models (WCRF),

Acknowledging the necessity for female-focused healthcare and its plethora of sub practices, especially in rural areas as half of the world lacks access to healthcare according to the World Health Organization,

Considering the need for stimulating International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) programs to further promote the development of the agricultural economy,

Firmly convinced of the need for educational incentives created for female students, as according to UN Women, just 39% of rural girls attend secondary school, and women make up more than two-thirds of the world's illiterate people,

Aware of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (quality education), which calls for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, and notes that women represent two-thirds of the world population that are illiterate and less than 40% of girls in rural areas attend secondary education,

Emphasizing the need for childcare for women, more specifically in least developed countries with regards to job opportunities,

Guided by the need for women to have equality in employment along with increased rights and awareness in rural areas,

1. *Recommends* the development and implementation of a WCRF that supports women as farmers and decision-makers in their own right by:
 - a. Providing loans and opportunities for women to manage their own finances and decide what crops to grow and sell;

- b. Giving training to women to expand the WCRF model from rural communities to greater rural regions;
2. *Further recommends* the expansion of the IFAD's Inclusive Blue Economy Project to other LDCs in order to promote the role of women in agriculture and aquaculture to strengthen climate resilience;
3. *Approves* focus groups, in localized rural regions and focused on women's issues, to promote economic development by:
 - a. Recognizing the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an avenue for promoting financial literacy within each Member State;
 - b. Supporting the adoption of the Rapid Financing Facility for affordable financial products and services for women;
4. *Invites* public and private institutions to cooperate in making accessible and inclusive remote educational programs, funding the construction of more rural institutions to ensure easier access to a safe, quality education;
5. *Ensures* access to adequate healthcare for women residing in rural communities by promoting and establishing women's health centers in underserved areas by:
 - a. Attracting doctors and medical professionals to rural areas through incentives;
 - b. Providing accessible prenatal care and medication to women living in developing areas;
 - c. Guaranteeing free access to sexual health education, as well as the ready availability of contraceptives.



Code: GA2/1/5

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Understanding the importance of promoting adequate and equal access to education and educational opportunities,

Encouraging gender equality through programs that assist women in establishing their own businesses through vocational training,

Reaffirming the crucial role of women in peacebuilding processes, oftentimes taking place in rural dominated regions, as outlined by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women and Peace and Security”,

Emphasizing the lack of social protection measures for vulnerable populations in rural areas, including women, youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples,

Noting with appreciation the successful work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) that, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), has expanded employment opportunities for women in several Member States and mobilized women’s access to finance and markets which facilitates the path for better work and incomes,

Recognizes that if female farmers had the same access as men to land, livestock, education, and financial services, agricultural output in 34 developing countries would rise by an estimated average of up to 4%, as stated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

Acknowledging the feminization of poverty, and its consequences on women in rural areas, to meet the objectives of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), especially considering the crucial role of gender equality,

Understanding the socio-economic factors that contribute to making women highly susceptible to falling beneath global poverty lines,

Recognizing the importance of women in agriculture and providing systems and opportunities in order to strengthen the critical role of women in developing rural economies and agricultural output,

Noting that poverty rates within rural regions are 160% higher than those of urban communities, with rural poverty accounting for 63% of poverty worldwide, as reported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF),

Acknowledges the poor working conditions in rural communities addressed in Article 6 of Human Rights Council resolution 13/21 (2010) on “Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in the Republic of Guinea”, more specifically the impact that the lack of agricultural technology and sustainable farming has on human rights,

Noting the urgency of access to necessities such as clean water and sufficient food and how it relates to the improvement of life quality in rural areas,

Keeping in mind that, according to the *Global Food Policy Report 2023*, three billion people globally, and 80% of people living in extreme poverty, live in rural areas with 2.5 billion relying on agricultural livelihoods,

Observing the lack of stimulating growth within rural economic sectors as a result of the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Believing that the importance of technology and knowledge sharing between developed and developing nations is integral to improving rural communities, and that smaller rural communities who lack stable internet connection are also deprived of the most common technology-sharing methods promoted by the UN,

Alarmed that many developing rural communities do not have adequate access to basic services such as waste management, and that this produces dire consequences for the environment and sustainable agricultural growth,

Noting that a great number of rural communities are disconnected from local, regional, and global economies, due to underdeveloped road systems as according to the Rural Access Index, a measure of the rural population that lives at least two kilometers (km) away from an all-season road, as devised by the World Bank in 2006,

Understanding the vital importance of rural economic development for the sustainable growth of the global economy, and acknowledging the persistent challenges faced by rural communities to ensure that a more inclusive and accountable approach is developed to support rural development,

Noting the importance of bridging the technological gap in developing nations' urban and rural communities by promoting digital literacy and developing social infrastructure,

Considering that the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) finds technology, science, and capacity building are major pillars of the *Means of Implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda* and, in order to eradicate poverty and reorient current unsustainable development trajectories before 2030, affordable technological solutions have to be developed and disseminated widely,

Reaffirming its commitment to General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," especially Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) within the international framework to ensure that all Member States are working towards sustainable and equitable rural economic development,

Conscious that agricultural workers in low-income countries have a median level of agricultural capital stock that was 3% that of high-income countries in 2017, highlighting the lack of structural investment in the agricultural sector in rural regions,

Recognizing the findings of the 2019 *Education at a Glance Report* published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that showed that an extensive educational history among children lead to a higher success rate for seeking higher education,

Reminding Member States and the entirety of the UN system that all decisions regarding sustainable rural economic development should be grounded on scientific research and concrete data,

Emphasizing the need to promote agricultural innovation through policy, institutional support, food quality advancements, irrigation and drainage, and land consolidation through emerging technologies for families and smallholder farms as established in the More Food International Programme,

Conceding the issue of water stress as an eventual impediment to rural economic expansion as reported by UN Water,

Dismayed that rural communities are often neglected by their respective governments, thus diminishing access to the resources they need to progress in agricultural technology, seeing as agriculture trade is linked to poverty eradication,

Having considered the prevalence of funding towards investing in rural transformation powered by emerging technologies to reduce rural poverty and alleviate hunger,

Noting with deep concern the importance of sustainable agriculture practices to develop career opportunities as well as enhance productivity,

Ensuring that the international community will do its best to prevent every crisis, like pandemics, food crises, or natural crises affecting the population of any nation,

Affirming the necessity of increasing access to agricultural education on a local level to maximize development in all Member States in creating a sustainable future,

Emphasizing the desire for social cohesion to address social inclusion and educational opportunities,

Recognizing the importance of achieving progress towards SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), and 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls),

Recalling the partnership made with the Miracle Foundation by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide online training to teachers set forth during the COVID-19 pandemic which assisted those in underdeveloped rural regions,

Acknowledges the work completed by the OECD in the yearly report that collects data on the state of education around the world,

Expressing concern that UN data portals largely do not differentiate between urban and rural populations in their data sets,

Recognizing that rural development is not given adequate attention, and most discussions are centered on urban development,

Aware of the need for the collection of data that focuses specifically on the needs of rural communities,

Understanding that rural communities have less access to technology, and exhibit a lack of trust in data collection organizations and sharing private information, making them less responsive to data collection methods,

Conscious of the UN DESA 2021 *World Social Report*, which stated that rural development is crucial to both the eradication of poverty and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Programme as an engine to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Mindful of the UNICEF report that states that there are 1.3 billion young people in rural areas, 1 billion of which are located in developing countries, who are largely marginalized within their respective communities,

Understanding the importance of equitable access to information on rural economic development for all countries to be able to make informed and data-based decisions,

Noting 1.2 billion individuals residing within the 111 countries that make up the developing world live below the global poverty line, as reported by World Vision,

Recalling the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the agricultural sector by causing a shortage of workers, rising food insecurity, and adding an additional 150 million people to the number of individuals going hungry, including those in poverty according to a World Bank 2021 report,

Reaffirming SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), concerning the eradication of hunger, and the need for a responsible consumption and production,

Underlining that, according to the World Bank, rural populations have declined by 20% since 1980,

Concerned with the depopulation of rural areas, especially from younger people who see the agricultural and manufacturing sectors as offering low returns for the factors of productions being offered,

Acknowledging the need for informational transparency in an increasingly globalized economy in exchange for reducing sanctions that inhibit Member States' capability to implement effective solutions for rural communities,

Bearing in mind current reports from the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank that state how rural communities being equipped to take part in international trade creates revenue and fosters economic growth in said communities,

Seeking to promote aspects of a transition towards a green economy in order to help elevate economic development to combat aspects of climate change and adopt policies that favor the production of green energy,

Recognizing the potential dangers for rural areas if the *Paris Agreement* (2015) goals of preventing global warming and keeping global temperatures from exceeding an additional two degrees are not being met,

Reminding the global community that sustainable investments in agriculture are also investments towards combating climate change,

Referencing the unique needs of residents of rural areas regarding physical and mental healthcare and acknowledging the success of the India's Space Research Organization (ISRO) in spearheading telemedicine through coupling the power of satellite communications technology with information technology and medical science to bring healthcare to the doorsteps of rural communities,

Recalling Article 25, Clause 2 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) which reaffirms the recognition of medical care, social services, and unemployment benefits as necessary protections guaranteed to every human being,

Acknowledging the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda Framework* (2015) and the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Programme as an engine to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs,

Noting that according to the Qatar Ministry of Municipality and Environment, rural poverty stands being 160% higher than those of urban communities, with rural poverty accounting for 63% of poverty worldwide, as reported by the International Monetary Fund,

Recalling the importance of incentivizing multilateral incorporation into the global economy necessary for eradicating poverty, gender inequalities, hunger, and the lack of access to necessary social services,

Bearing in mind SDG target 9.5 to improve scientific research and the technology employed to better all industrial sectors pertaining rural economies, and 9.c to increase access to information and communications technology, as well as ensuring global access to the internet within the least developed countries within SDG 9, as well as 9.1.1, which helps define the Rural Access Index, a metric for defining the proportion of the rural population who live within two kilometers of an all-season road,

Recognizing that 2.9 billion people do not have access to the internet according to the International Telecommunication Union and are unable to receive it for numerous reasons, including armed conflict or current lack of infrastructure which deprives people of information channels, risk protection, and coordination mechanisms for rural entrepreneurial activity,

Understanding the crucial role that reliable internet access, as outlined in SDG 9, target C will have in connecting rural communities in improving their ability to partake in online learning environments which increase resilience in the context of shocks to political, economic or social environments within Member States,

Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a multistakeholder advisory body on global artificial intelligence (AI) cooperation as part of the General Assembly resolution 74/821 (2020) "Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (2020) to enhance capacity-building in utilizing advanced technologies for rural communities",

Recognizing the necessity of ensuring that the employment of farmers in rural areas is not outsourced in the face of technological development, especially with the introduction of AI technologies,

Endorsing the usage of AI technologies in enhancing the agrarian capabilities of agricultural professionals in rural communities to promote increased productivity of harvest output and efficiency,

Commending the success of digitization programs like the Digital India Program, which increased the number of rural internet users from 25 to 53 percent, as well as the expansion of network connection by possible by projects like Project Kaipur and Starlink,

Reaffirming the continued struggles in rural areas to find a financial reason to operate internet access in rural areas as population density decreases, meaning less people are available to become customers in said rural areas, driving companies and governments away,

Affirming that the international community will serve as the guardian for all nations and, if it is not possible to prevent crises such as pandemics, it will provide all necessities to protect the health of the population and to provide crisis management if any crisis occurs,

1. *Recommends* Member States to encourage entrepreneurship among women in rural communities by offering job training and mentorship programs and providing growth-stimulating aid to women-led businesses such as business subsidies, credit, and temporary tax reductions;
2. *Calls to* establish group farming initiatives that have succeeded in India as a means of promoting the economic and social development of women contributing to rural economies by:

- a. Enabling women to open bank accounts, track funds, and interact with private and government agencies;
 - b. Promoting participation and success of women in the labor market as women learn to negotiate in various markets, agricultural and real estate leasing;
3. *Encourages* Member States to be mindful of the cultural differences in terms of women in the workforce and try to become more inclusive to all women through:
 - a. Recognizing and respecting countries' cultures and religious beliefs;
 - b. Creating job opportunities for women-only environments;
 - c. Establishing job opportunities in industries that align with the Member States' traditions and cultural practices;
4. *Recommends* Member States to pass laws protecting women working in agriculture by conducting welfare inspections;
5. *Suggests* Member States take steps to sustainably integrate women into rural economies by creating and promoting positions for women in decision-making roles through the UN Women programs designed to provide employment opportunities such as vocational training which contributes to provide the initial funds to establish independent businesses;
6. *Encourages* Member States to implement financial safeguards for single-parent households headed by women such as government supported maternity leave programs and social programs to assist in preventing food insecurity in single-parents households;
7. *Suggests* government financial assistance programs for women who qualify and can maintain certain standards such as a fixed poverty line to determine qualifying mothers for a monthly stipend that is determined by annual income, number of children, and regional cost of living;
8. *Invites* Member States to prioritize the empowerment of women by establishing the policy framework S.A.F.E. (Safe Access to Technologies of Information, Freedom and Education), which would seek to emphasize how women in rural areas can access resources for information about healthcare, vocational non-traditional career paths, and best agricultural practices;
9. *Invites* policy frameworks similar to ones listed in the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the Innovation Cities plan, including:
 - a. Developing incentives and policies to support rural and agricultural entrepreneurship, and ecotourism;
 - b. Allowing for the relocation of public institutions to provinces and local cities further improving services and infrastructure in favor of the local economies;
 - c. Supporting rural and agrarian communities by giving subsidies to agribusinesses and small farms with crops specific to the region or nation and encouraging nations with advanced industrial farming industries to facilitate technology exchanges;
10. *Urges* Member States to invest in infrastructural development in rural communities by:
 - a. Improving transportation and communication networks to strengthen supply chains;
 - b. Providing new and innovative agriculture technologies without strict stipulations to increase agency of farmers;

- c. Facilitating public-private partnerships to provide access to interest-free agricultural microloans and grants;
 - d. Providing financial aid to rural communities, municipalities, and previously neglected areas;
 - e. Diversifying import crops to increase productivity and yield;
 - f. Building irrigation and promoting better access to clean water supplies;
11. *Desires* the creation of an annual international Digital Technologies Conference that will bring public and private sectors together within the next six months by:
- a. Sharing ideas and making recommendations to help aid rural areas on poor living conditions and green energy initiatives;
 - b. Providing a forum and open dialogue at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) headquarters in New York City, where the Member States will hold a discussion on the topic;
 - c. Leveraging digital technology to spur infrastructure development;
 - d. Receiving funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and implementation by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
12. *Calls* for the creation of the Facilitating Agronomy and Replacing Monoculture Subcommittee (FARMS) under the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), which will be made up of a collection of scientists, agricultural experts, engineers, and educators, all of whom will be collected from around the world and who will be selected and confirmed by a majority vote of the UNEP's Senior Management Team, for the purpose of:
- a. Continuously acting on a council made up of these experts, whose organizational structure will be decided by UNEP, and whose work will be examined and then validated by the primary body of UNEP;
 - b. Creating and disseminating universally accessible guidelines for practical and environmentally friendly agricultural practices and the manufacturing and maintenance of green energy technology that can be utilized by the rural communities of developing nations;
 - c. Making instructions available on topics including stable farming practices, crop rotations, promotion of seed suppliers, practices that utilize irrigation, and proper waste disposal guidelines;
 - d. Furthering the systematic transfer of agricultural knowledge and practices, including training on how to properly use fertilizers and organize pesticides, building upon the foundation set by ILO's *Guided by Greening the Economics of Least Developed Countries: The Role of Skills and Training*;
 - e. Creating technical assistance and training programs with the purpose of helping farmers increase productivity and profitability, promoting the use of modern farming techniques and tools, and creating easy trade between countries engaged in manufacturing agricultural technology and the countries that need it;

- f. Seeking funding in the form of donations from Member States and from foundations such as Practical Actual, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and low-interest loans from the World Bank;
13. *Encourages* the development of programs that foster technological innovation and data differentiation in rural communities to promote the correct tracking of employment of technology in agricultural, educational, and health sectors;
14. *Recommends* the use of non-conventional water resources, including the treatment, proper storage, and disposal of brine, artificial recharge of natural aquifers through surface spreading, injection wells, percolation ponds, and recharge basins, submarine springs, as found and utilized by Member States in the Gulf Coast, as well as partnering with regional financial institutions to fund research and development in the detoxification of brine and artificial recharge;
15. *Further invites* Member States to endorse infrastructural modernization through state investments, state policy programmes, expansion of existing incentives for infrastructure, and subventions for the agricultural sector investors;
16. *Supports* the implementation of new and improved import and export legislation tailored to each Member States' needs in effort to open remote and rural area's agricultural industries to international markets and trading systems by:
 - a. Enabling said communities' economic development with the opportunities of trade given by improved legislation;
 - b. Recognizing the potential contributions from areas that already use agriculture as their vital source of income;
 - c. Adapting regional legislation to give way to new and lasting agricultural trade agreements on a global level;
17. *Recommends* the use of agricultural technology to sustainably develop rural communities by advising Member States to proportionally allocate resources into agricultural research and development, further water resource management through Member State investments in the construction and reconstruction of new and existing water management facilities, organize working groups to ascertain the possibility of sharing knowledge on financial aspects and natural resources for the purposes of networking to bring researchers and sub-national representatives together to collaborate and strengthening economic links between urban and rural communities, and develop databases for accessible agricultural information through:
 - a. Researching supply and production chains, to be conducted by regional authorities;
 - b. Collating national agricultural statistics on animals and products, economics, crop totals, operators, and specialties;
18. *Further recommends* the promotion of organic agriculture and more natural forms of pesticides and fertilizers while reducing the use of synthetic ones whenever possible in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Fertilizer Association, and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements;
19. *Suggests* monitoring progress of building and working on afforestation and protection of the nature by Member States regarding land within their borders;

20. *Encourages* Member States to adopt new, sustainable approaches to national agricultural industries that align with regional landscapes, with suggestions to adopt policies that:
 - a. Ensure the implementation of agroforestry at a regional level to further develop and enhance rural areas' ability to practice sustainable agriculture and for its positive impact on SDG 13;
 - b. Encourages the implementation of vertical farming at a regional level, as demonstrated in the Gulf Coast, as it is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 25.7% and remains a strong solution for supply chain issues;
 - c. Encourages the implementation of aquaculture at a regional level, as it boosts economic growth and relieves pressure on agricultural lands;
 - d. Encourages the use of vocational training in sustainable agriculture techniques by municipal entities;
21. *Recommends* aid to Member States with a Rural Access Index of under 20% to invest in the development of their road systems, as supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, with the goals of increasing agricultural productivity, making competition on a local and national levels possible for rural businesses, and promoting interconnectivity amongst enterprises within rural and urban spaces in a reliable manner;
22. *Urges* Member States to promote technologies that are adaptable to sustainable agriculture, such as biotechnology, which has enabled methods to direct abundant natural energy to new, more efficient or unique food products, smart tractors, drones, or machines that would decrease the use of water;
23. *Encourages* access to quality inclusive education by offering radio and remote asynchronous primary educational programs to increase sustainable development of Member States, specifically within disadvantaged rural communities expressed in programs such as the Miracle Foundation;
24. *Trusts* Member States to provide access to agricultural education, to implement new and adaptable technologies to increase quality of life for rural communities, to create initiatives that promote sustainable techniques for land restoration;
25. *Recommends* that the United Nations Data Portal differentiate between rural and urban data points collected from countries by:
 - a. Supporting the expansion of technology and communication infrastructure to rural communities;
 - b. Encouraging outreach programs that have the intent of building trust between rural communities and data collection organizations and agencies;
 - c. Strongly advising the FAO's Statistical Database, United Nations National Statistical Offices, and the United Nations National Statistical Systems to create separate categories for data points collected from rural and urban populations and re-evaluate their methods to ensure accurate representation of rural communities in these datasets;
26. *Recommends* that Member States provide more employment opportunities for young people by implementing targeted youth programs such as Financing for Young People in Peacebuilding by the United Nations Children's Fund;

27. *Suggests* that Member States adopt a set of policies and create a credit system based on inclusivity for regional and national businesses based on a set of criteria such as inclusivity training, a diverse hiring panels, a communication channel for feedback and concerns of employees, accessibility to the business to everyone, and taking the diverse and flexibility needs by regional and national businesses, with the higher the score being the more inclusive the businesses are;
28. *Invites* Member States to provide special privileges to businesses with high inclusivity credit scores, such as tax breaks, deductions, and business subsidies, which can be distributed monthly and increase with the inclusivity credit score, access to regional and national entities for resources and information, protection from outside competition wishing to create a similar business in the area so the local business can survive and thrive, and the award of special free-of-charge grants and low interest rate loans;
29. *Promotes* more accessibility for rural communities by utilizing Member States' emergency funds in response to natural disasters or climate change effects by endeavoring to set manageable interest rates and encouraging Member States who do not have an emergency fund to approach different organizations that can help with the creation of one, such as FAO, IFAD, IMF, and the World Bank;
30. *Urges* investment from intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations with guidance from European Union's cohesion policies original framework, including but not limited to the IMF, the World Bank, the Central Bank of Saudi Arabia, and IFAD;
31. *Encourages* investment in easily accessible and sustainable development funding through donations and loans to acquire machinery for the agricultural sector, in order to stave off the economic impact of pandemics and various global catastrophes on people in need;
32. *Invites* the installment of an international and transparent fund, funded by the World Bank, supervised by the Secretary-General, and dedicated for specific investments in the agricultural sector;
33. *Invites* Member States to invest long-term in access to technologies to produce renewable sources of energy, such as agricultural machinery and telecommunication systems, and in the simultaneous use of green and reusable energy in agriculture to develop the agricultural sector;
34. *Strongly recommends* that Member States reform trade barriers set against Member States in an effort to invest in the agricultural sector of least developed Member States by prioritizing food security as an international responsibility, implementing food banks to low-income families, and maintaining environmental consciousness;
35. *Implores* Member States to adopt a similar program to the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which has developed policies in favor of renewable energy by providing tax exemptions and financial incentives in rural areas towards projects in relation to renewable energy advancements and technologies;
36. *Asks* that Member States couple satellite and information technologies to address limited access to healthcare services and providers relating to the fields of mental and physical health, similar to the telemedicine program implemented by ISRO to address the needs of rural communities to ensure their data stays private and accessible when needed;

37. *Calls upon* Member States to uphold their responsibility of providing accessible universal health care services to each and every citizen by expanding the presence of health care resources in rural and significantly underdeveloped regions;
38. *Encourages* the development of programs that foster technological innovation in rural communities to promote the employment of technology in the agricultural, educational, and health sectors;
39. *Suggests* the creation of a program called the Global Resilient Network that will seek to include all willing Member States that identify as least developed countries (LDCs) to mitigate the effects of economic shocks on rural communities by:
 - a. Providing policies to aid capacity-building and potentially create economically resilient communities;
 - b. Increasing cooperation amongst all LDCs;
 - c. Receiving support and funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN DESA;
40. *Encourages* economic incentives and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth, thereby maximizing youth potential and reducing youth challenges, as outlined in the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Programme by:
 - a. Conducting a thorough review by the *World Programme of Action for Youth* of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that young people face, as it applies to each Member State;
 - b. Encouraging support networks for peer systems to provide connections for young people;
 - c. Offering low-cost resource alternatives and financial support tools for young people looking for entrepreneurship opportunities in rural areas;
41. *Invites* investment in innovative network technologies, such as broadband satellite internet, to increase network infrastructure and connectivity through UNDP, domestic Member State programs, and private and public organizations, in order to:
 - a. Increase rural access to social programs and government participation;
 - b. Promote entrepreneurial activity in tourism by increasing accessibility and availability of goods and services among internet users through fostering rural internet accessibility;
 - c. Improve entrepreneurs' understanding and usage of digital technologies in order to capitalize on e-commerce tools in the informal sector, such as Facebook Marketplace;
42. *Recommends* the establishment of high-speed, open-access, trade-focused Internet spots, or "HOTspots," within the boundaries of rural communities to serve as the nodes to bridge the gap between disparities in Internet usage between urban and rural communities through the proposition of a conference for the implementation of internet HOTspots by:
 - a. Delegating the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation to work in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union

and International Trade Centre to manufacture cooperation in establishing the ideal location within rural communities for the designation of HOTspots;

- b. Mobilizing this joint effort among United Nations entities to attract foreign direct investment due to this new commercially relevant and prosperous zone;
 - c. Urging for HOTspots internet speeds in rural areas of at least five megabits per second;
 - d. Inviting the usage and research of Wi-Fi balloons for rural areas when sustainable and affordable for easier implementation and the completion of SDG 9;
 - e. Introducing HOTspots into rural areas addressing the disparities between women and men in equal accessibility to internet resources because of the subsequent empowerment of rural women in broader economic contexts by ensuring that all groups, especially marginalized groups, will be recognized equally at HOTspots;
 - f. Reporting upon the impact of said technological development upon trade between Global South and Global North Member States;
 - g. Continuing cooperation of Global South, Global North, non-government entities such as Alliance for Affordable Internet and United Nations entities such as UN DESA to see the completion of these goals, especially recommending the investment by Global North Member State into HOTspots projects for the increasing of the interconnected global economy;
43. *Recommends* that ECOSOC direct the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish a group of experts in artificial intelligence (AI), the Panel on AI Integration into Agricultural Technology, in order to realize the full extent of the benefits of AI technologies in enhancing those in the agricultural sector to:
- a. Analyze the harvest cycle of crops;
 - b. Maximize crop yield;
 - c. Assess climate conditions;
 - d. Carry out pest control;
 - e. Detect disease in crops;
44. *Requests* that ECOSOC direct CSTD to direct more funding into AI based agricultural technology;
45. *Recommends* that the United Nations Secretary-General establish the Technological Advancement in Agriculture Committee to provide research-based findings on the benefits of AI technology for rural communities by:
- a. Compiling a bi-monthly report on the merits of AI technology for the rural populations;
 - b. Assembling a panel of experts in the field of AI with an emphasis on implementation in rural settings;
 - c. Sustaining their studies via funding received from NGOs whose missions specifically relate to the development of AI technology for agricultural production;

46. *Affirms* the lifting of unjust economic barriers to enable Member States to pursue cooperative agreements towards fostering domestic economic development amongst sovereign states by:
 - a. Providing greater access to job opportunities, especially in sectors that are typically inaccessible to women;
 - b. Furthering research and development towards the expansion of efficient agricultural technology;
 - c. Promoting cooperative efforts in facilitating increased access to necessary resources required by rural regions;

47. *Requests* the establishment of subsidies in all willing Member States for agricultural workers such as farmers who are working to sustain economic growth and development in rural areas by:
 - a. Helping individual farms by providing operational funding and improving existing conditions;
 - b. Receiving implementation and financing from a network of interconnected NGOs such as the Marine Preservation Association and the Wyss foundation, who are committed to providing funding for agriculture;

48. *Recommends* that willing Member States implement policy recommendations to improve working conditions and protect the rights of rural workers by:
 - a. Enacting and enforcing labor laws that ensure fair wages, reasonable working hours, and safe and healthy working conditions for all workers, regardless of their nationality or immigration status;
 - b. Strengthening regulatory bodies to oversee labor laws and ensuring greater accountability for employers;
 - c. Encouraging the formation of labor unions to empower workers to negotiate for better wages and working conditions;
 - d. Motivating workers to report abuses or violations of their rights without fear of retaliation;
 - e. Collaborating with other Member States to ensure that workers who migrate to the country are properly informed of their rights and have access to legal and social support.



Code: GA2/1/6

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Recalling the 2018 *Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other People in Rural Areas* and its significance in expanding the universal importance of human rights,

Noting with deep concern the two billion people that still lack access to drinking water systems according to the United Nations report *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update* and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) baselines,

Recognizing the 2016 *Global Sustainable Transport Report* for highlighting the need for more physical travel infrastructure in providing rural populations with access to urban areas as well as in expanding the trade infrastructure necessary to diversify rural economies,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) in attaining the funding necessary to kickstart development programs in least developed countries (LDC) such as the Lebanese road and employment project, which is revitalizing 500 kilometers of roads and surveying another 600 kilometers,

Proclaiming that, according a 2018 report from the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), sustainable agriculture practices enhance productivity and allows for more career opportunities to emerge while simultaneously strengthening rural communities,

Considering the importance of achieving the goals set by the SDGs, especially SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic development), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities),

Recognizing the need for more sustainable agriculture practices which, according to a 2022 SDG 7 progress report, requires further efforts are required to scale up energy access and sustainable rural development,

Recalling the 1995 Education for All framework, which establishes a need for equitable and accessible education,

Recognizing the lack of diversified skill sets in rural populations that leaves them vulnerable to high rates of unemployment during the off seasons of agricultural work as reported in the Rural Skills Development Project conducted by the Asian Development Bank in 2011,

Emphasizing the negative impacts of inadequate, predatory, and fraudulent lending services that impose excessively high interest rates or unnecessary fees targeting the most marginalized sectors of vulnerable credit-seekers,

Stressing the correlation between the lack of access to education with poverty in rural areas, as reported by The Institute of Education and Research in 2019 as a part of the 2015 *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*,

Understanding the lack of education and opportunity in rural areas which lack inclusivity to women, men, and children, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, which outlines that as of 2021, approximately 17% of people worldwide lack basic literacy skills,

Acknowledging the disparity in the availability of capital in the global market, the importance of efficient and diverse economic growth, and the necessity of access to local goods and services, as the richest 10% of the global population currently take home 52% of the income according to the World Economic Forum,

Acknowledging the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impending effects of climate change on farmland, as well as the destructive impacts of droughts, floods, and severe storms which will cause decreases in farming output,

Bearing in mind the collaboration between the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the FAO on promoting better agriculture and land usage,

Reminding the needed attention into desalination which, according to a United Nations report, two billion people still lack access to drinking water systems,

Recognizing the historical precedent towards technological and intensive development as the driving force behind rural economic development and improvement in quality of life,

Aware of major strides which have been made thus far in machine learning and its accessibility to be integrated into education,

Determined to effectuate change via recommendations and acknowledgement of the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) for agriculture,

Hoping to realize the targets of SDG 6, (clean water and sanitation), SDG 8, and SDG 9 in the most efficient and even-handed manner possible,

Recognizing the unique opportunity to develop modern sustainable communities using modern and clean mechanisms of development as well as the redevelopment of existing infrastructure,

Deeply appreciating the sustainable and community-based approaches from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) that increase food security, incomes for rural communities, and agricultural productivity,

Appreciating the 5th International Agrotechnological Summit, organized with the support of the United Nations Information Office, which identified and resolved challenges in the field of sustainable agriculture and climate change, as well as diversifying the intensive technologies used in crop and livestock production,

Recognizing the importance of sustainable agriculture through the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* to modernize agriculture, increase employment opportunities, and promote job opportunities and entrepreneurship in rural areas,

Recognizing the importance of accessibility of the internet for rural populations in order to make information accessible and usable for every individual within developing bandwidths as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 65/433 (2010),

Emphasizing the need for the use of modern agricultural technology in rural development,

Aware of the lack of public-private-partnerships (PPPs) required to accelerate development in rural areas,

Recalling the *SDG Report 2022*, and specifically alarming current trends that the rate of increasing

electricity access worldwide is slowing dramatically, disproportionately affecting rural communities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 76/219 on “Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”

Desiring to hear the voices of those nations in which rural labor underutilization has the greatest impact and the need for economic integration as stressed in the report A/C.2/64/L.4 of the General Assembly,

Taking into account the disparities and inequalities in rural communities between men, women, indigenous peoples, and many others in rural communities, specifically acknowledging the need to continue the agenda for SDG 10 (reduced inequality),

Recognizing the importance of the International Day of Rural Women, officially proclaimed and observed within General Assembly resolution 62/136 (2007),

Acknowledging the poor working conditions of rural women with low salaries and few job opportunities, as noted in the *SDG Report 2022*,

Noting Women’s Entrepreneurship Expo, which provides the place for networking, learning, and idea exchanging for women entrepreneurs,

Reiterating the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* of 1996 that stresses the need of making rural voices heard in the national policy-making processes,

Underlining the importance of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Areas project,

Encouraging gender equality and female empowerment through cross-sectoral initiatives dedicated to improving educational opportunities for women and girls,

Acknowledging the importance of women starting small businesses to contribute to both the economy and advance their standard of living as previously mentioned in General Assembly resolutions 70/219 on “Women in Development” and 34/180, the *Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*,

Noting the prevalence of unsustainable farming techniques such as conventional farming and monoculture farming, which erode natural landscapes and lead to ever growing deforestation,

Acknowledging the need for increased implementation of vertical farming and aeroponic techniques which indicate that by 2050, 70% of humanity will require vertical farming for year-round farming, according to the 2017 Joint Meeting of the Second Committee and ECOSOC,

Emphasizing the importance of mitigating sexual violence and harassment of women, noting SDG 5 (gender equality) and the Spotlight Initiative that Mozambique is currently benefiting from,

Affirming the work of regional work of the Women’s Entrepreneurship Expo (WEE), through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), to educate women on entrepreneurship practices and promote inclusivity in pursuit of SDG 5,

Noting with deep concern challenges, such as restricted access to financial resources and technology, and how they might stifle rural economic progress,

Acknowledging the significance of the United Nations Capital Development Fund in rural development processes and the necessity to continue innovation according to SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and

infrastructure), specifically target 9.6 to “facilitate sustainable infrastructure development for developing countries,”

Requests the World Bank develop a strong partnership with the GCF which will act as an intermediary of investment for domestic and regional programs,

1. *Calls for* the expansion of investments and access to the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States Project 2019-2021 in order to achieve SDGs 8 and 9 by:
 - a. Expanding the *State of Least Developed Countries* report to not only include research on progress of LDCs but also give specific development advice to LDCs wanting to meet international goals;
 - b. Requesting further funding from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund;
2. *Encourages* the development of intrastate roads and other transportation infrastructure between rural and urban economies to further foster intrastate commerce by:
 - a. Urging the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and other regional investment groups and regional investment banks to invest in new roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure with the purpose of connecting urban and rural economies;
 - b. Requesting the Infrastructure Management Team, Africa Transport Unit of the World Bank, the International Association of Public Transport and Tokyo's Development Learning Centre to provide Member States with an individual report on optimal road development plans upon request by a Member State;
 - c. Encouraging the use of new technologies and provide Member States the option to get permanent access to traffic, transit, and road condition data to ensure efficient and seamless interstate commerce flow implementation by the Member States;
3. *Promotes* the creation of educational programs catered to farmers in rural areas to expand both agricultural skill sets and non-agricultural skill sets to ensure stable employment in both on and off-seasons by:
 - a. Providing teachings on more sustainable methods in farming;
 - b. Raising awareness on the implications of agriculture and climate change;
 - c. Creating guidelines to help educational centers to establish and develop official training workshops to diversify the skillsets of agricultural workers;
 - d. Ensuring that these workshops and training programs are flexible and tailored to the unique needs of marginalized groups such as women and Indigenous communities;
 - e. Being aware of the unique needs of individual Member States and their individual economic and workforce needs, so that these programs can deliver relevant skill set upskilling;
4. *Supports* programs dedicated to educational outreach in rural communities in order to promote career opportunities, higher education possibilities, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, hybrid education through virtual instruction, and the use of AI to create more job opportunities to assist those in otherwise unreachable locations;

5. *Calls upon* UNESCO to help Member States minimize the literacy gap between rural and urban students in hopes of reaching a similar level of education by:
 - a. Investing in more accessible schools for all students in rural communities;
 - b. Training more educators and offering them more job opportunities in rural areas;
 - c. Reducing illiteracy rate by promoting educational programs for adults;
 - d. Encouraging the attendance of young girls;
6. *Encourages* Member States to increase access to education for the youth in rural areas to increase career and higher education possibilities by:
 - a. Emphasizing the teachings of advanced farming technologies;
 - b. Providing the learning materials tailored to each country's language;
 - c. Establishing guidelines on the basic educational system and how education can be provided and evolved to a better system;
 - d. Creating an educational system that helps to improve the education in rural areas and therefore increase the overall education of the state;
 - e. Providing incentives for youth already established in rural areas, looking to increase their career chances;
7. *Encourages* the creation of an international guideline on the sustainable construction of public education institutions in rural areas conducted by the Special Envoy for Global Education in order to:
 - a. Spread information and educate about the sustainable ways to create and build infrastructure that will help people in rural areas through governmental programs that initiate plans on the areas with professionals on the field to also encourage the people in the rural area to pursue education;
 - b. Create a global network for rural areas to spread ideas and knowledge about maintaining and structuring rural areas in order to find information about new techniques for sustainable economic growth;
8. *Encourages further* investment from public and private entities in rural start-up companies that frequently lack access to the financing they need to launch or grow their enterprises which:
 - a. Allows an all-inclusive venture capitalism category of funds to screen and advise;
 - b. Creates equitable and profitable returns for investors which can attract international Member States;
 - c. Prioritizes expediting investing in initiatives that offer loans or finance to small firms in rural areas;
 - d. Encourages the promotion of sustainable and consumer-focused financial services for the most vulnerable communities, and marginalized communities;
 - e. Supports financial services that are affordable and accessible for unserved and underserved rural communities, including credit, saving, insurance, and investment products;

9. *Requests* the expansion of access to credit through proprietors, micro, small and medium enterprises within Member States by:
 - a. Supporting financial services that are affordable and accessible for unserved and underserved rural communities, including credit, saving, insurance, and investment products;
 - b. Addressing low participation in formal financial services among non-formal workers, including small farmers, independent/free-lance contract workers, fishermen, and similar professions;
 - c. Promoting the development of tourist industries that respect ecological and environmental stability and conservation;
10. *Strongly encourages* an increase of subsidies to farmers from IFAD in developing or least developed Member States, taking note of developing and LDC's that meet international food safety, animal and plant health standards for trade to improve their access to global and regional markets;
11. *Further encourages* the expansion of frameworks such as IFAD to aid public-private partnerships targeting to improve the welfare and standard of living of rural populations by encouraging public and private investments in different sector more specifically, value chain-centered development, education and training on climate change, and interest-free microloan schemes for farmers and sustainable agricultural infrastructure;
12. *Formulates* the Rural Development Program (RDP), sponsored by UNDP, as a comprehensive, effective and voluntary framework for economic development in rural and semi-rural areas which will create sustainable and growing communities which recognizes the eventual urbanization of these communities by:
 - a. Identifying the SDGs as the primary inspiration and guidelines by which the RDP is developed;
 - b. Encouraging the formation of model rural communities which are based around agriculture as their primary means of economic activity to pool resources and exercise collective decision making to better develop their communities which will be based on:
 - i. The concept of high-density suburban communities which encourages social interaction and a coherent living space for its residents;
 - ii. Resources and particularly capital concentrated into the local credit unions for use in community development and collective use of resources;
 - iii. Community decisions handled through democratic means which respects to private properties and voluntary participation;
 - c. Increasing the use of mechanized means of agricultural production such as mechanized farming tools including tractors and harvesters among poorer farmers, emphasizing renewable and sustainable energy;
 - d. Supporting the increased use of environmentally friendly fertilizers such as seaweed, guano and recycled sewage with:
 - i. Funds pooled by the community for use in purchasing fertilizer;

- ii. Methods of recycling sewage for use as fertilizers through the burgeoning technology of nitrogen reclamation;
13. *Further elaborates* on the RDP with respect to urbanization and intensive economic development by encouraging the development of semi-urban industrial communities to form self-sustaining and environmentally friendly communities which mutually support their urban and rural components;
14. *Encourages* renewed and updated action by Member States to fully endorse previously established frameworks and resolutions such as *The Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas* in order to form a more equitable state of wellbeing for those in rural areas;
15. *Encourages* regional cooperation between Member States on matters related to sustainable and community-based agricultural approaches by actively exchanging research and technology as well as increasing the output of fertilizers and mechanized equipment for use in agriculture;
16. *Implores* Member States to invest in the development and redevelopment of more traditional modes of communications in rural areas such as radio, television, and telephones by:
 - a. Encouraging recycling and repair of older or damaged models from the willing Member States;
 - b. Requesting that Member States establish vocational training for the maintenance of aforementioned technologies through programs provided by NGOs such as the Jobs for the Future program;
17. *Supports* the development of sustainable procedures in the desalination process, such as the biomimicry enterprise, in order to gain access to fresh water;
18. *Endorses* the creation of a research information and communication network forum between developed and developing Member States where Member States provide details on successful rural economic development projects in their respective Member States;
19. *Promotes* the development of internet infrastructure in rural areas to improve access to farmers and other rural residents in order to:
 - a. Promote the incentivization of PPP's engaged in developing Information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the basis of creating sustainable ICT development in rural areas;
 - b. Advance technological literacy among rural populations for use in sustainable development as such as in marketing and further improving technological optimization of production;
20. *Calls for* the creation of the Global Solar Power for Rural Areas Development Program which will:
 - a. Encourage subsidies and incentives from Member States to build localized power grids that run on solar panels in rural areas;
 - b. Encourage resource exchanges for achieving sustainable agriculture which will occur between private or public sectors via collective bargaining agreements to ensure that private or public sector businesses/governments must offer some sort of return on investment;

- c. Utilize the energy developed from this initiative to support sustainable agricultural infrastructure and use energy to power newly built physical infrastructure;
 - d. Be possibly funded by the Robertson Foundation, given their work in funding clean energy initiatives;
 - e. Be possibly implemented by the United Nations Environmental Programme, given their work in inclusive clean energy initiatives;
21. *Trusts* in the development of the Global Sustainable Technology Program, which entails:
- a. Encouraging all Member States to enhance electricity grid development in rural regions;
 - b. Ensuring all Member States to keep their trade technologies up-to-date through information sharing via a database;
 - c. Supporting start-up companies on their way improving current agricultural technologies through incentives from Member States and advertising for these companies' technologies;
 - d. Encouraging access to necessary technical tools that foster genetic engineering for Member States that reside in the Global South;
22. *Suggests* the establishment of an AI education curriculum by FAO, dedicated to gathering experts in the field of AI to instruct rural farmers on the merits of integrating AI farming technology into their work;
23. *Advises* Member States on the Fintech Agenda, which seeks potential benefits such as:
- a. Sharing knowledge with farmers across the regional and international level;
 - b. Mitigating administrative burden for rural farmers;
 - c. Supporting potential growth and poverty reduction by strengthening financial development, inclusion, and efficiency;
24. *Encourages* a framework to support the SDGs via the introduction of AI technology, particularly in low-income areas, where access to financial services is subpar;
25. *Suggests* the creation of the conference for Global Energy Adaptation for Rural Economic Development (GEARED) to be organized by the Secretariat, which will be tasked with:
- a. Establishing criteria for a ranked system to determine rural areas most in need of improved energy infrastructure, emphasizing sustainable energy, with UN Energy collecting relevant data from all willing Member States;
 - b. Establishing means to increase visibility to potential funders of energy infrastructure, emphasizing Member State sovereignty;
 - c. Including, but not limiting, representation approved by the General Assembly from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Western Europe, Southeast Asia and, and Oceania, Eastern Europe and Asia;
 - d. Encouraging representation from appropriate NGOs, UN Energy, UN Women, and other relevant parties in the private and public sector;

- e. Seeking funds from voluntary Member State contributions;
 - f. Including a report of progress due in five years, conducted by UN Energy;
 - g. Including a follow up meeting, to be determined by the conference;
26. *Encourages* Member States to establish direct public consideration to further safeguard necessary measures that take local conditions into consideration for a transition from rural to industry and provide data to the GEARED report conducted by UN Energy;
27. *Recommends* that Member States seek policy guidance from the United Nations Capital Development Fund on investments in transportation, electric, telecommunication infrastructure, agriculture, and communications technology, especially when overcoming obstacles such as regulatory restrictions, low returns on investments, and insufficient risk insurance support of rural communities preventing Member States from achieving adequate levels of investment into the infrastructural needs of rural communities;
28. *Stresses* addressing inequalities in ownership of land in rural areas by disparaged groups and lowering the barrier of entry for these groups through:
- a. Further reports on the ownership of rural land by Member States to further discover the worst disparities in rural land ownership;
 - b. The creation of accessible education programs on rural land ownership to these disparaged groups through partnership with UN Women;
 - c. Encouragement of Member State investment equity to include peoples from all groups to be a part of rural land ownership universally;
 - d. The creation of small business loans through UN financing programs and Member State funding for disparaged groups;
29. *Encourages* Member States to implement different social programs that would provide girls and women the necessary skills to advance in society through vocational training which will provide those who complete it with a “business kit” including the initial funds for their business;
30. *Emphasizes* the urgency of pushing Member States to adopt a new gender policy and implementation strategy, following the framework of the Spotlight Initiative, which could be implemented at the public and private sector, civil society, and other sectors in society to protect girls and women from sexual harassment and violence;
31. *Encourages* Member States to further support IFAD’s gender equality in the agricultural economic sector and supporting the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment by:
- a. Offering workshops in the fields of but not limited to financing, negotiating and business management;
 - b. Supporting female land tenure through policies favoring women in loan-distribution;
 - c. Making sure that the same work is validated with the same pay;
 - d. Offering a sufficient amount of child-care/kindergarten spots in rural areas;
 - e. Raising awareness on the role of rural women and gender stereotypes in the agricultural sector;

32. *Suggests* that the FAO works alongside CARE International and the World Wildlife Fund to establish workshops in Member States to offer education on climate-smart agriculture and ecological preservation;
33. *Calls upon* Member States to raise awareness for the International Day of Rural Women by running an international public relation campaign that highlights stories of rural women in cooperation with UN Women's News and Stories section by:
 - a. Expanding the Women's Livelihoods Accountability Initiative;
 - b. Promoting funding and allocating resources and equipment to women in rural communities;
34. *Encourages* Member States to create or maintain female-focused entrepreneur mentor systems to increase job opportunities in rural areas in cooperation with UN Women, specifically by:
 - a. Expanding membership in the WEE to include membership outside of Europe and Central Asia, including Africa, Oceania, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - b. Calling upon able Member States to fund membership to the WEE from underrepresented areas, and areas farthest from achieving SDG 5;
35. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to report which ten Member States are those with the highest levels of rural labor underutilization, with the express purpose of consulting these Member States on the formulation and promulgation of recommendations to the broader community of Member States regarding encouraging measures to reduce rural labor underutilization, with particular care to gender equality;
36. *Calls for* the development of sustainable farming methods and green technologies for rural areas and agricultural sectors to mitigate carbon related damages through:
 - a. The use of vertical farming and aeroponic techniques to reduce the required space of agriculture, with infrastructure funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, TechnoServe, and the One Acre Fund;
 - b. An expansion of solar-powered interregional freight lines in West Africa, Western Europe and Central Asia, and South and East Asia, using funds from regional financing organizations, such as the African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, and the International Finance Corporation;
37. *Suggests* Member States promote participatory and inclusive decision-making on national and local level decision making and policy making in developing nations as demonstrated by United Nations, European Union, and the World Bank using Lebanon's Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework;
38. *Encourages* Member States to use NGOs such as the Red Cross or Doctors Without Borders to promote access to healthcare in rural areas.



Code: GA2/1/7

Committee: General Assembly Second Committee

Topic: Rural Economic Development

The General Assembly Second Committee,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which specifies that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and the well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, and necessary social services,

Acknowledging the importance of rural economic development to the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth 2), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals),

Viewing with appreciation General Assembly resolution 41/128 (1986), the “Declaration on the Right to Development”, and emphasizing Article 1, which states that “the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized,”

*Bearing in mind the imperative of allowing Member States to retain state sovereignty, under Articles 2.1 and 2.7 of the *Charter of the United Nations*, and authority in addressing domestic matters concerning vulnerable rural communities and producing region-specific solutions,*

*Referring to the 1992 *United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change*, especially Article 3.1, addressing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,*

*Basing itself upon the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, as well its predecessors, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, specifically focused on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises for the benefit of all people, and the need of bridging the infrastructure gap for all,*

Reminding Member States of the target of contributing 0.7% of their gross national income for Official Development Assistance and giving special recognition to those that have met their targets such as Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Recognizing the importance of geographic information systems (GIS), as it allows for effective analysis, planning, and monitoring of agricultural and hydrological developments and the climatic factors that affect them,

*Acknowledging that approximately 70% of the world’s rural population lives in low-income or lower-middle-income countries according to the 2021 *World Social Report: Reconsidering Rural Development* by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), while expressing our concern for the disproportionate poverty rate in rural areas is three times higher than in urban areas, at 17.2%,*

Aware that according to the World Bank, the rural value added as a percentage of the GDP has been in constant decline,

Acknowledging the international community's obligation to facilitate the mobilization of resources through multilateral cooperation to provide adequate means to developing populations, including the 589 million rural individuals living in extreme poverty according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

Recalling that 68 Member States have been directly impacted by sanctions and that the UN condemned these economic barriers through General Assembly resolution 75/289 (2021) on the "necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" which continue to decrease aggregate GDP of impacted nations by 25.5% on average, as reported by the UK Department for Business and Trade,

Noting with grave concern that the potential expiration of the Black Sea Grain Initiative threatens to impede rural economic development amongst grain exporting states of Eastern Europe, which threatens global stability, world food security, and international supply chains,

Encouraged by the success of current programs such as the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Project, and further emphasizing the importance of having a strong infrastructure in rural areas including sustainable roads, increased access to inland waterways, expanded port access, as well improved access to railways,

Appreciating the rural development recommendations that have been and continue to be put forth by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to further sustainable rural economic development,

Noting with deep concern that only 64% of the population of the world has access to the Internet and only 66% of the world has access to a proper secondary education, both of which are barriers to achieving our shared sustainable development goals, which emphasizes the need to expand internet access and broadband throughout rural communities, and which increases access to education and expert information needed to bolster movements out of poverty and add to economic growth,

Understanding that the rehabilitation and sustainable improvement of infrastructure further supports tourism guided by the General Assembly resolution 77/178 (2022) on the "promotion of sustainable and resilient tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection" and advancements for rural community distributions of product, education, and healthcare,

Recognizing zero rating services are when an internet service provider applies a price of zero to the data traffic associated with a particular application or class of application which reduces or removes the need for disposable income in order to have Internet,

Conscious of the limitations of Member States, specifically in less developed countries, on incorporating technological infrastructure specific to building energy infrastructure and agricultural innovations, and those limitations should encourage focus toward such regions and areas,

Imploring Member States to sustain General Assembly resolution 77/165 (2022) on the "protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind," which provides an agenda focused on rural economic developing sectors of Member States who need assistance the most when it comes to the effects of climate change within agriculture, mining, hydroculture, and other relevant industries,

Emphasizing the need to update existing policy to better assess the rapidly deteriorating climate landscape, including the need to remain below the 1.5-degree Celsius warming threshold from the *Paris Agreement* (2015),

Recognizing that rural economic development can take many forms, whether it be developing agricultural industries, mining operations, hydroculture sites, or tourism industries,

Bearing in mind that Latin America and Africa have benefited immensely from governmental and non-governmental organization investments and involvement in bringing about hybrid genetically modified crops and renewable energy sources, all of which have increased the strength and stability of underdeveloped regions,

Conscious of the fact that 584 million rural individuals lack access to energy resources and innovations necessary to enable sustainable and inclusive development efforts, according to the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program,

Stressing the fact that according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), nearly 20% of people heavily depend on agriculture, and global efforts to help rural communities are insufficient,

Reaffirming the body's commitment to food security, given that 924 million individuals face severe food insecurity according to FAO,

Fully aware of the More Food International program that prioritizes the usage of new upcoming technologies and mechanization to provide food security for both smallholders and families,

Noting the verve displayed by the FAO as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 76/264 (2022) on the "state of global food insecurity" alongside other entities such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, ILO, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in their efforts to reduce rural poverty, as well as related challenges such as eliminating hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, while continuing to acknowledge the vital role rural regions play in ensuring a stable food and water supply,

Recognizing the impact of armed conflicts on the agricultural sector, not only through the loss of life, arable land, infrastructure, and treasure but also in the lingering effects that last long after hostilities have subsided, such as minefields, unexploded ordnance, unaccounted-for arms, and explosives per the Landmine Action report titled *Explosive remnants of war: Unexploded ordnance and post-conflict communities* (2002),

Acknowledging significant developments in rural infrastructure from economic stimulus plans such as the Belt & Road Initiative, Inflation Reduction Act, and Infrastructure Asset Management Team,

Fully Supporting the *Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan* (2022) to promote artificial intelligence (AI) in agriculture to have a more sustainable production and distribution, as well as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP),

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) on "The Human Right to Water and Sanitation" that recognizes the human right to clean drinking water and sanitation, and calls on Member States to provide access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all,

Having examined the effects of National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Action mechanism for the private sector, including individuals and enterprises towards developing and manufacturing renewable energy technologies by providing subsidized loans,

Bearing in mind that developed Member States produce 79% of carbon emissions, according to the Center for Global Development, disproportionately impacting underdeveloped Member States,

Aware that rural areas depend on tourism, as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 75/229 (2020) on "promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection" and is a framework of the SDGs as an engine for building prosperity, planet protection, and the foundations of peace,

Affirming the need for education in rural and nomadic areas especially for women and youth, with consideration that the youth employment rate is only 35% despite the implementation of plans such as the National Center On Safe Supportive Learning Environments of the United States Department of Education to combat low education and to reinforce existing institutional policies that allow for equal opportunities for women and other marginalized populations,

Referencing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) that focuses on boosting rural transformation and the reduction of rural poverty, especially considering the vulnerability of unregulated informal workers to exacerbating the lack of social protection for marginalized rural communities, which are primarily women,

Reaffirming the belief in the protection and conservation of the culture, property rights, values, and traditions of the indigenous people living in the rural areas as stated in the *Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* when trying to develop their economic activities,

Deeply concerned that the rural community's lack of access to basic human rights, including education and healthcare, is perpetuating and worsening the marginalization of vulnerable social groups, particularly women and children,

1. *Requests* that the United Nations Commission on Trade Law develop a set of guidelines for the improvement of the flow of foreign direct investment in low- and middle-income countries;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish an open-ended intergovernmental group that will conduct a comprehensive study for the General Assembly by its seventy-eight session and will be dedicated to providing analysis and recommendations for the sustainable development of rural economies and helping identify development options that may have adverse effects in the long-term including:
 - a. Potential free-trade agreements that could benefit Least Developed Countries, Developing Small Island Nations, and Landlocked Developing Countries;
 - b. Predatory, discriminatory, and unequal financing practices as well as weak fiscal policies so that suggestions and improvements may be made to the relevant lending organizations and governments;
 - c. Stronger principles for blended finance which include, but are not limited to, sharing risks and rewards fairly, alignment with sustainable development, stronger accountability measures, transparency, local participation for rural communities, effective accounting practices, and alignment with national priorities;
 - d. Businesses and ventures that are owned and operated by women, gender-diverse people, indigenous people, and other marginalized communities;
 - e. A multi-faceted approach to agricultural investment including tourism and ecotourism, internet access, innovation and technology, renewable energy, healthcare, and educational centers;
3. *Calls for* Member States to increase or seek to better allocate funding for UNDP-partnered government and non-governmental organizations such as CARE International and IFAD, to end poverty in rural communities and encourage growth in agriculture and infrastructure while providing additional support in developing regions which fall within their mandate;
4. *Recommends* the expansion of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to evaluate future economic advancements in aided countries and regulate funding through transparent regional and domestic bodies;

5. *Advises* Member States to expand financial literacy for the inclusion of women in infrastructure development projects by increasing accessibility to entrepreneurial resources for small and medium-sized businesses through the UNDP;
6. *Highlights* the necessity of international pressure to remove condemned unilateral coercive economic measures and barriers to the free flow of financial and material resources to ensure the capacity of developing nations to secure necessary resources for sustainable and inclusive economic development, and promote equity in capacity between developed and developing nations;
7. *Suggests* that Member States implement a scaling solution from the national to the provincial level in order to secure the effectiveness of mentioned initiatives such as by:
 - a. Encouraging the relocation of public institutions from metropolitan areas to provinces and local cities, which decentralizes the population and economic functions, improving services and infrastructure in hub cities and promoting accurate representation and active participation of the marginalized rural communities considering the needs of each group;
 - b. Ensuring the maintenance of a bottom-up feedback loop so as to adapt and configure according to the municipal areas' needs as states see fit based on the guidelines presented through the newly formed expert committee;
 - c. The contribution, analysis, and publication of reports by individual states towards the aforementioned expert committee as a database of similar initiatives for further policy recommendation purposes;
8. *Strongly encourages* Member States to implement initiatives with regional allies to facilitate the establishment of strategies in cooperation with developed countries to incentivize the equitable sharing and reallocation of financial and material resources, promote economic growth and innovations to reduce poverty, and establish agreements for the sharing of innovations and information for mutual benefit in addressing domestic issues sustainably and inclusivity;
9. *Calls for* a comprehensive re-evaluation of Member States' financial incentives, completed by a General Assembly panel behind the lending process associated with micro-financing, hoping to further understand how regionally targeted micro-financing mandates can mitigate or eliminate perpetual poverty while still maintaining state sovereignty in order to improve:
 - a. Cross-national insecurities in water, food, and jobs;
 - b. Baseline development of rural areas to establish financially responsible solutions for poverty;
 - c. Prospective and current investments in the creation of aquaculture, irrigation, and well building within nations in both Northern and Southern Africa;
 - d. Educational disparities across Member-States and communities due to a lack of funding;
10. *Calls on* development banks to provide loans and monetary support necessary for the creation of climate-resilient infrastructure based on the International Monetary Fund initiative Islamic Banking, including ethical investments and practices, as well as a communal focus on these banking processes instead of a private network;

11. *Designates* sustainable agricultural education and eco-friendly farming development strategies through outreach programs in rural communities and research teams within regions with harsh climates such as areas prone to droughts, flooding, and extreme temperatures;
12. *Expresses* its hope of an Interconnected Rural Schooling Program designed to foster a diverse and inclusive learning environment that will:
 - a. Invite Members States to finance the programs by providing donations to the Rural Schooling Program Fund;
 - b. Guide the use of an online platform that will ensure connection and education between different Member States and will greatly influence individuals of those Member States to have easier access and diversification to instruction;
 - c. Provide educational resources such as funds for schools, technologies, textbooks, and credits to families for bringing children to school;
 - d. Create specific programs focused on the formation of vocational schooling networks utilizing international science, technology, engineering, and math programs to provide STEM studies for women and children in rural economic communities;
13. *Calls upon* the international community to implement programs facilitating the:
 - a. Identification of ineffective and inefficient management efforts through national-level reviews and auditing of national and regional energy policy and organizations through frameworks resembling the efforts of the International Energy Agency;
 - b. Training and the propagation of information for decision-making to promote effective local-level management of energy resources, ensuring the efficient allocation and consumption of aforementioned resources;
 - c. Sustainable and inclusive development of energy infrastructure in rural regions through the establishment of national energy centers and networks of renewable energy professionals to consolidate information, innovations, and research for the purpose of creating open access and sharing of such innovations to the benefit of all Member States;
14. *Strongly encourages* Member States to develop more inclusive Internet access plans, to reduce connectivity taxes, diversify access to content and applications, and grow the availability of broadband by:
 - a. Removing or reducing internet service taxes, taxes on telecommunications, and connectivity taxes;
 - b. Diversifying the applications available to users by implementing government services for education and agriculture, such as Ghana's Cocoa Link system which provides expert information to farmers via text and internet services, that could be adapted to all sectors of industry and the economy;
 - c. Implementing underground fiber optic cables to connect rural communities;
 - d. Establishing physical infrastructure such as local libraries and community centers open to the public in order to generate accessibility of technologies in rural communities through increasing educational training and opportunities to utilize modern technology, and improving the availability of non-proprietary, open-source datasets;

15. *Strongly encourages* the international community to implement programs similar to FAO and the Alliance for Responsible Mining, which facilitates the transition to sustainable models of agricultural and mining production focusing on the:
 - a. Integration of traditional knowledge and cutting-edge scientific expertise;
 - b. Diversification of production to improve the resilience of agricultural and mining operations;
 - c. Establishment of large-scale, sustainable urban agriculture and rural mining operations to provide diverse sourcing for agricultural products and mining outputs respectively;
 - d. Land reforms, including rezoning for agriculture and collectivization, to incentivize the expansion of the agricultural sector to the benefit of rural areas;
16. *Encourages* cooperation between Member States to combat crop-damaging pests to improve agricultural development by creating watershed habitats and rewetting peatlands to create cost-effective ecological methods of storing rainwater to prevent flash flooding, assesses the rapidly deteriorating soil caused by desertification, alleviating the threat to crop yields and increasing food insecurity, by investing in land restoration and rewilding, to combat soil erosion in rural areas, and encourage economic development through expanding agricultural opportunities;
17. *Emphasizes* the need for expanding the already existing Trans-African Highway launched by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa into an African and Middle East Highway and Railway Network to connect both Africa and the Middle East and favor economic development of excluded populations and invites Member States to share their technical knowledge to build an inclusive and efficient railway network;
18. *Recommends* that Member States utilize innovative and sustainable desalination technologies in collaboration with the International Desalination Association to purify water using solar-powered desalination plants, which are beneficial in terms of environment and costs, advanced membrane technologies, such as membrane distillation, which are cost-efficient and produce highly pure water, zero liquid discharge, which is more sustainable and reliable as it is not affected by fluctuations, floating desalination plants, which are mobile, require less land, and can be easily expanded or reduced, batch reverse osmosis, which has improved energy efficiency with longer-lasting equipment and the ability to process a larger amount of water, as well as forward osmosis, which has a high salt rejection rate, and recovers valuable resources such as nutrients and salt;
19. *Invites* Member States to proactively address the issues regarding desalination techniques, such as high energy consumption, by investing in energy-efficient desalination technologies, such as reverse osmosis, which can reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and reduce costs, by governments providing subsidies or cost-sharing programs to help smaller communities and developing countries implement desalination, brine discharge, by using a brine in other ways such as industrial processes such as irrigation or dust suppression, as well as injecting brine into a permeable rock formation, where it can be safely stored and eventually dispersed over time, and lessening the environmental impact by conducting assessments prior to the construction of desalination plants to identify and mitigate potential impacts on marine life and ecosystems, health concerns by regularly monitoring water quality to ensure it meets all health and safety standards;
20. *Emphasizes* the need to update existing policy to better assess the rapidly deteriorating climate landscape and remain below the 1.5-degree Celsius warming threshold including:

- a. The creation of cost-effective ecological methods of storing rainwater to prevent flash flooding, assess the rapidly deteriorating soil caused by desertification, and alleviate the threat to crop yields;
 - b. Investments in land restoration and rewilding, to combat soil erosion and desertification in order to address issues of food insecurity;
 - c. Cooperation between Member States to combat crop-damaging pests to improve agricultural development by creating watershed habitats and rewetting peatlands;
21. *Endorses* the utilization of practical methods for people in rural communities to have access to the Internet and GIS technologies by expanding access, education, and training within local hubs and kiosks;
22. *Highly recommends* that Member States develop and maintain a network of local healthcare clinics accessible to rural populations, including but not limited to building hospitals for hospice and urgent care and the provision of healthcare resources from hospital creation for maternal care and childcare that is easily accessible and utilized by top healthcare professionals;
23. *Calls for* the creation of the Rural Waste Management Fund (RWMF), which will be accessible to all Member States in need for the purpose of subsidizing the creation or improvement of waste management companies or programs that seek to focus on rural communities;
24. *Implores* Member States and organizations such as Greenpeace and the Climate Foundation to fund the RWMF and its mission to ensure rural environments may be given the tools to properly dispose of waste;
25. *Encourages* the improvement of local guidelines by regional legislation, to aid and achieve the SDGs in rural areas while leading a constructive dialogue between upper and lower government levels, aligning to international sustainable development standards and learning from the states with the most successful SDGs achievement process;
26. *Urges* the creation of multilateral commerce dialogues amongst Member States which seek to develop their rural economies with like-minded Member States willing to cooperate and share resources to:
 - a. Provide expert technical and material support toward developing their rural economies and outsourced investment opportunities to rebuild broken rural agrarian markets;
 - b. Establish a body for the oversight of outsourcing investments to ensure transparency in the equitable and proper spending of resources;
27. *Promotes* the use of non-violent methods to resolve land conflicts between rural farmers while benefiting the agricultural sector, including the supply of fences, walls, gates, and other such structures to indicate clear property boundaries and encourage local government officials to oversee farms so that the provision of water and access to settlements is not impeded in any way.