The Economic and Social Council,

Appraising the work of the former United Nations (UN) Information and Communication Technologies Task Force (UNICTTF) as the main organizer of high-level round tables and global fora linking information and communication technology (ICT) with society and technology and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Understanding that the creation of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) is important in expanding certain elements of technology such as the internet but would work most efficiently when combined with a program like UNICTTF,

Noting that the Shared Services Initiative established by NetHope is an invaluable resource in sharing the best solution and services among the member organizations, including assisting with strategic cost management and capacity building in order to promote sustainability in civil society partnerships,

Recognizing the human rights and considerations of all peoples in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter of the UN, regardless of differences in gender, race or ethnicity

Highlighting discrepancies in aid dispersal within populations,

Acknowledging the International Human Rights Law, which look specifically at the equitability and impartiality based on the vulnerability of the needs of individuals,

Recognizing with the consideration for gender perspective developed in Gender Training Modules for Participants in Peace Support Operations,

Commending the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

Reiterating the goals of UNHCR to expand partnerships with Member States, governmental organizations and CSOs to deliver life-saving assistance, ensure protections for all people of concern, and seek solutions to protect and prepare for emergencies especially those faced by refugees,

Recognizing the work of the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which supports the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially in coordination with humanitarian distribution,

Supporting the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which highlights the role of indigenous peoples in economic and social development, culture, environmental concerns, education, health and human rights,
Discouraged by the lack of focus upon indigenous persons, as seen through the Kenyan indigenous HIV rate at 26% versus the Kenyan national rate at 7%,

Noting with deep concern the doubled Australian infant mortality rate and five times increased maternal mortality rate in the Australian indigenous population compared to non-indigenous peoples,

Appreciating civil society organizations (CSOs), such as Native Planet, which encourage humanitarian assistance of indigenous peoples in order to foster the preservation of cultural autonomy,

Recalling the importance of preserving and upholding humanitarian principles as contained in A/RES/46/182 and the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from other political, economic, military or other objectives as established in A/RES/59/141,

Recalling ECOSOC decision 2011/210 (E/2011/L7), which emphasizes working in multilateral partnerships in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance worldwide,

Recognizing A/RES/65/243 and A/RES/68/198, which equally stress the importance of ensuring civil society’s involvement and participation in humanitarian efforts as well as the role of national sovereignty in the implementation of “information and communications technologies for development” within Member States,

Recognizing the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), initiated in 1998, as an essential platform for discussing the activities and issues related to strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the UN,

Confident that the upcoming forum, “Humanitarian Technology: Science, Systems and Global Impact 2014”, to be held in Boston, Massachusetts from 13-15 of May and affiliated with the International Association for Information Systems for Crises Response and Management (ISCRAM), will result in beneficial and collaborative discussions regarding the strengthened connection between technologies and humanitarian aid endeavors between scientists, humanitarians and policy-makers,

Encouraged by the continued progress of the MDGs,

Recognizing the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as the primary means of coordinating humanitarian assistance as established in A/RES/48/57,

Appreciating the humanitarian efforts of both UN-based aid and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Médicines sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC), in collaboration with the guidance of the IASC,

Drawing attention to the actions of NGOs such as Intelsat and Telecoms Sans Frontieres (TSF) in providing emergency communications during crises like the 2011 Japanese tsunami and
With Typhoon Haiyan in the hopes that their efficient technology infrastructure can be replicated on a broader scale,

Expressing concern about the growing digital divide in the availability and quality of access to technology between high-income countries and other regions of the world, looking to the portable technological infrastructure during crises as utilized by the TSF as a valuable model for the expansion and modification of existing structures,

Acknowledging the success of organizations such as NetHope and ReliefWeb in bringing together leading humanitarian organizations and private sector companies in sharing expertise and collecting relevant and up-to-date data on disaster areas and humanitarian efforts,

Recognizing the Austrian Development Cooperation, a global, multi-partner initiative for the swift establishment of communications infrastructure in areas of need, including the setup of mobile networks for voice and data communication, as well as providing support to partners in training and knowledge sharing,

Recognizing the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) under the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which is a valuable model for linking NGOs and UN organs to civil society,

Seeking to avoid a donor hierarchy, recognizing first and foremost in accordance with A/RES/54/233 and A/RES/58/114 that the affected sovereign state has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territories,

Deeply concerned with Member States’ neglect of previously declared Official Development Assistance (ODA) Targets,

Acknowledging the existence of procedures, infrastructures, and governmental and non-governmental structures, such as NGOs and CSOs already in place for assessing the need for humanitarian aid and/or for distribution of that aid,

Recognizing the rapid pace of technological development that often results in the obsolescence of infrastructures and methods and which can inhibit the coordination work required for successful collaboration between organizations and its civil partners,

1. Encourages Member States to consider the use of various technologies in providing adequate humanitarian assistance as well as the development of sustainable infrastructure in order to enhance existing humanitarian frameworks within Member State borders;

2. Implores the UN Secretary-General to revive the UN Information and Communication Technologies Task Force (UNICTTF) to analyze existing frameworks and ways in which they can be improved through the use of technology and information sharing among Member States, multilateral organizations and CSOs:
3. Urges regional bodies to collaborate with the GAID, an international body which utilizes information and communication technology (ICT) and science, in order to promote the following:

   a. A forum in which individuals representing governments, non-governmental stakeholders, civil society, the private sector and international organizations can engage in multilateral policy dialogue,

   b. The identification of major priorities and themes to be addressed within the international community utilizing the advice of The Strategy Council,

   c. A commitment to the use of ICT in the achievement of specific development goals including the MDGs,

   d. The sharing of business models in order to stimulate economic growth and the empowerment of civil society;

4. Advocates for donor countries to work closely with recipient Member States and the experts of that Member State in developing more effective mechanisms for the achievement of sustainability specific to that region;

5. Recommends that the TSF project be replicated in areas of humanitarian disaster, specifically the establishment of telecommunication centers around hospitals and refugee centers and the temporary distribution of durable, all-climate cell phones preprogrammed with emergency contact information;

6. Understands that the TSF was established through a trust fund from a generous private donation and that private-sector partnerships can continue to fund it through its integration and expansion with like-minded NGOs and civil society partners;

7. Invites Member States to replicate on a larger scale the NetHope and ReliefWeb software forum for providing direct and relevant expertise in the areas of Field Capacity Building, Emergency Response, Innovation for Development and Global Broadband and Innovations;

8. Invites a more ideal connection between potential partners through linkage in as few steps as possible with the expansion of certain services, and notes the Shared Services Initiative;

9. Promotes further governmental and civil society communication with indigenous populations, in accordance with the UN Human Rights Council’s creation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, through the utilization of the UN Development Programme’s Human Rights Based Approach to Development;

10. Requests further adoption of the UNHCR’s goals to expand partnerships with Member States, governmental organizations and CSOs to deliver life-saving assistance, ensure protections for all peoples of concern, and seek solutions to protect and prepare for emergencies, especially those faced by refugees;
11. **Encourages** Member States to consider the model presented by the Austrian Development Cooperation by giving humanitarian aid to states in crises through:

a. Providing funds, through agencies such as the Austrian Development Agency’s Foreign Disaster Fund, for crisis prevention, reaction, and rehabilitation while:

   i. Recognizing the sovereignty of Member States in determining their own economic and humanitarian policies;

   ii. Understanding that not all Member States have the economic capacity to contribute monetarily to such a cooperation,

b. Supporting local CSOs who have the ability to enact both long-term and immediate disaster relief;

12. **Advocates** the training of humanitarian staff when approaching a gender perspective to focus upon the empowerment of women through the utilizing the framework being developed in the Gender Training Modules for Participants in Peace Support Operation;

13. **Recommends** the adoption of an evaluative process conducted by the IASC Task Force Subcommittee, at the frequency of every two years, in the event of an obvious, catastrophic failure of a delivery of humanitarian aid, for the purposes of identifying weaknesses, obsolescence, redundancy or barriers in the delivery of humanitarian aid or in blocking the coordination of humanitarian aid, particularly when citizens are victims of harm resulting from internal governmental instability;

14. **Underscoring** the importance of adhering to the ideals of IASC’s stated ethical priorities of leadership and governance, transparency, feedback and compliance, and local citizen participation;

15. **Emphasizing** that the primary purpose of the above evaluation process is to ensure increased effective coordination between those in need of humanitarian aid and the determination and delivery of the aid;

16. **Recommends** further that this evaluative process be incorporated into any and all considerations pertaining to humanitarian aid infrastructure, procedures or technology, noting the ideals that the distribution of humanitarian aid shall not be denied based on any perceived barrier, such as geographic location, economic status in society or any other characteristic falsely used to less the value of human dignity;

17. **Endorses** a revitalized focus on ODA targets in order to provide more reliable humanitarian aid;

18. **Urges** further discussion and development of efforts regarding humanitarian aid in order to improve the well-being of the international community.
The Economic and Social Council,

Stressing the importance of civil society and the knowledge, and experience that civil society can contribute with regard to humanitarian assistance and its coordination,

Recalling the precedence of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) addressing the issue of humanitarian aid coordination, most recently in Resolution 2013/6 on “Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,”

Fully realizing the benefits of inclusion of civil society organizations (CSOs) due to their vast resources to address issues, regions, peoples, cultures and the relationships it has built among Member States and the international community,

Further regretting the counterproductive policies that are often attached to aid,

Recognizing that certain Member States have extended expertise in the humanitarian aid process,

Supporting the Standards of Human Rights previously stated in the Fourth Geneva Convention, which calls for protection of civilian persons during time of conflict,

Noting with approval resolution of A/RES/50/172 and its recognition of state sovereignty,

Taking into consideration that using aid resources to prevent disasters can be as important as using aid resources to respond to disasters reactively,

Keeping in mind that risk reduction is defined by the United Nations (UN) Office for Disaster Risk Reduction as aiming to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention,

Bearing in mind the importance of continuously re-evaluating existing systems and improving upon them,

Acknowledging the need for Official Development Assistance (ODA), defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as monetary aid from developed countries to developing countries for the purpose of economic development,

Concerned about divergences in development outcomes that have widened the gap between Member States in their abilities to respond to humanitarian crises,

Deeply concerned with the increased number of attacks on aid workers as a result of miscommunication between local security authorities and aid agencies in host countries,
Alarmed by the failure of Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the failure of committed efforts to donate the target 0.7 percent of Gross National Product as ODA to developing countries,

Taking note of the task of ECOSOC as stated in the UN Charter Article 63, to make recommendations to consult with agencies, the General Assembly, and Member States,

Affirms the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as the “primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance” as stated in A/RES/46/182,

Recognizing the importance of technology as a means by which transparent aid distribution can be documented and facilitated,

Further acknowledging A/RES/46/182 and its creation of the Cluster Approach, which fosters mechanisms to coordinate humanitarian assistance,

Fully aware of the UN Integrated Civil Society Organization Systems (iCSO) and its efforts to foster communication between CSOs and ECOSOC,

Deeply disturbed by the chaos in information flows that hampered the response to the 2010 Haitian earthquake,

Commending the actions of the UN Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination as organizations dedicated to immediate response assistance to countries during times of natural disaster emergencies,

Considering that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have not been adequately included in the planning and evaluation processes of humanitarian response and the lack of collaboration between NGOs and UN agencies,

Having found the coordination of humanitarian affairs made overall more effective as result of the implementation of the cluster system approach,

Noting the efforts made by ECOSOC to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian aid through E/RES/2010/1 which acknowledges the need for disaster preparedness, security and safety of the humanitarian personnel, strengthening the coordination between UN humanitarian organizations, humanitarian organizations, and Member States, and the end of gender violence which arises during humanitarian aid,

Bearing in mind that many challenges of implementing the cluster system exist despite the improvement it has made in the coordination of humanitarian assistance,

Deeply conscious that placing gender at the epicenter of humanitarian assistance coordination is essential to its success because crises do not affect everyone equally,
Recognizing the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN), and MDG 3 on the need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women that has yet to be met,

Concerned with the significant barriers that women still face including economic stability, participating in decision making processes, and safety from gender-based violence,

Reaffirming the importance of the Gender Marker Tool created by IASC to track and measure gender inequality in regard to humanitarian assistance,

Observing that 10 percent of the world’s population, approximately 650 million, live with a disability and 80 percent of those disabled living in developing countries,

Affirms the efforts of the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) as an effective means to finance developing projects for target groups including women and children,

Cognizant of the challenges of multilingualism that complicate effective communication among Member States, CSOs, and the UN,

Aware of the key role that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in improving the issue of facilitating humanitarian assistance in areas of the world it is most needed,

1. Encourages the IASC to amend its language policy to incorporate the languages of Member States receiving aid in order to improve communication among Member States, CSOs, and the UN through:

   a. Inviting interpreters from Translators Without Borders (TWB) to translate the information gained during IASC meetings into the official languages of UN, as well as the official languages of the countries it represents,

   b. Documenting IASC projects into the official languages of the UN, as well as the languages and dialects of the Member States represented;

2. Recommends the adoption of an evaluative process conducted by the IASC Task Force subcommittee in order to:

   a. Identify weaknesses, obsolescence, redundancy, or barriers in the delivery of humanitarian aid or in blocking the coordination of humanitarian aid with any aspect of CSOs,

   b. Meet and assess progress every two years to address both long-term and short-term goals and re-evaluate them if necessary;

3. Suggests reforming the cluster response system in order to address the lack of involvement of CSOs in the process of responding to crises and create a more collaborative approach to addressing humanitarian issues by:
a. Encouraging NGO leaders to work alongside UN cluster lead agencies in the process of planning, assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of humanitarian response to crises in order to facilitate integration,

b. Creating a system to give CSO partners with strong relationships in at-risk countries the ability to evaluate and assist the UN cluster lead agencies and the Emergency Lead Coordinator, establishing a two-way communication channel and a fully developed relationship even before crisis breaks out;

4. **Recommending** that the Gender Marker tool, created by the IASC, be improved upon with the following measures by:

a. Broadening the channels of engagement and expanding them to include the disabled by using methods and the code system used by the Gender Marker Tool and applying them to disabled persons,

b. Expansion of the evaluation process to the work of CSOs and national authorities alike during and after crisis response,

c. Continuing to refine the Gender Marker Toolkit to include translation into additional languages to broaden its use by all Member States and civil society,

d. Examining the intersections between age, sex, and gender in order to create a more comprehensive analysis;

5. **Calling upon** OCHA to improve the qualifications and experience of the Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs) and decrease the high turnover rate of those mentioned by:

a. Encouraging the Emergency Relief Coordinator to look beyond the UN system when selecting HCs and RCs and considering assigning these responsibilities to individuals who are currently working in CSOs in at-risk regions,

b. Recognizing members of CSOs who have the potential to become HCs and RCs and provide them with extensive training in the coordination of humanitarian assistance and development of long-term relationships between their organizations and OCHA;

6. **Recommends** the restructuring of the iCSO website to provide descriptions of projects in the Civil Society Database and to provide transparent documentation of previous and existing projects sponsored by ECOSOC and IASC;

7. **Urges** donor countries to evaluate excessive conditions on aid that reduces the ability of civil society groups to respond to natural and man-made issues such as natural disasters, famine, and conflict, by:

a. Allowing recipient countries to strengthen decision making and leadership resources,
b. Directing aid giving and coordinating agencies under ECOSOC to support Member States in using aid toward resources to help achieve the goals and desires of those Member States;

8. *Suggests* that OCHA re-evaluate the distribution of preventative aid as opposed to reactive aid by putting a greater emphasis on preventative aid than it currently does and begin to:

a. Encourage Member States to invest in additional forms of communication to ensure key entities can communicate in the event of disaster,

b. Recommend that Member States inspect key points of infrastructure that have a direct impact on the severity of disaster impact,

c. Train key personnel in disaster response procedures in accordance with A/RES/2816 by using agencies such as the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance,

d. Encourage the strengthening of programs that monitor disasters and can help individuals evacuate before a crisis or prevent them from happening such as the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination, and the International Earthquake and Volcano Prediction Center;

9. *Recommends* the international expansion of UNDEF to further fund pre-existing regional projects for women and children through UN programs, including:

a. The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women,

b. The UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality,

c. The UN International Emergency Children’s Fund Sociopreneur Project;

10. *Recommends* the cooperation between local partners and organization dedicated to the security of humanitarian aid personnel, including International NGO Safety Organizations (INSO), to ensure the of aid personnel by:

a. Utilizing current INSO partnerships in Member States,

b. Engaging local CSOs to assist in the education of safe workplace practices as outlined by the Interagency Security Management Network to provide adequate information about conflicts, safety precautions, and security;

11. *Endorses* efforts to ensure the compatibility of technical aid intended to mitigate crises or strengthen civil society, using programs such as the Chinese Medical Team, Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Action Training, International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance to accomplish:
a. The training of foreign engineering, medical, and technician consultants in local languages and environment,
b. Increase efforts to train engineers, medical professionals, and technicians from developed countries to work with civil society;

12. Encourages developed counties to meet or exceed ODA targets for the purpose of:
   a. Strengthening civil society within recipient countries by increasing financial resources for developing countries,
   b. Increasing capacities of response in developing countries to effectively minimize long-term costs;

13. Remains cognizant of the necessity of continuously evaluating and improving existing mechanisms for the coordination of humanitarian assistance and CSOs in order to secure a increased cooperation for all Member States.