



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 18 (b)

Economic and environmental questions: science and technology for development

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2021

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2021/L.27)]

2021/30. Open-source technologies for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolution 2012/6 of 24 July 2012 on science and technology for development, the Economic and Social Council noted that open access and virtual science libraries were two complementary mechanisms to increase and extend knowledge flows and help developing countries to obtain data and research,

Recalling also the need for greater attention to be paid to the growing array of online scientific and technical resources relevant to scientific and technical communities worldwide, as noted by the Council in the resolution,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Council in the resolution to encourage national research agencies and foundations to provide data and research results to the public domain and make them freely available in an open and accessible format,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled “The age of digital interdependence”, submitted to the Secretary-General on 10 June 2019, and the report of the Secretary-General, entitled “Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation”, presented on 11 June 2020, both of which refer to the role played by digital public goods,

Acknowledging the various existing mechanisms that promote open-source use and offer databases, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, the mechanisms adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sustainable Technology Marketplace of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Green), the Digital Public Goods Alliance and the Digital Impact Alliance Catalog of



Digital Solutions, and their valuable contributions to the use of open-source technology,

Noting the availability of open-source technologies that can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, through various open access sources,

Noting also the 2030 Connect online platform launched by the United Nations in 2020 under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² on the development and operationalization of an online platform under the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to establish a comprehensive mapping of, and serve as a gateway for, information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the United Nations,

Acknowledging that technical information, including data, plans, full digital design and manufacturing files, and instructions for assembly and use that are made available through open-source methods, can serve as a tool for overcoming barriers to the building and dissemination of the global stock of knowledge, particularly in developing countries and middle-income countries,

Acknowledging also the importance of enhancing international support for effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries, including in relation to open-source technologies and their implementation,

Acknowledging further that the consolidation of accessible and user-friendly information aimed at fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for the inclusive development of open-source technologies and at increasing cooperation between networks of existing databases containing technical information on public domain technologies could improve the use rate of open-source technologies and enable easy access to technologies with the potential to accelerate discovery and innovation across all sectors associated with the Sustainable Development Goals, while minimizing legal or financial impediments,

Decides to invite the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant agencies and in the context of existing initiatives and databases, to develop specific proposals, based on inputs from interested Member States and other stakeholders, on ways to better leverage open-source technologies for sustainable development by, inter alia, consolidating information and making it more accessible, including through the 2030 Connect online platform and related initiatives and databases and with multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as with non-governmental actors, including civil society, the private sector and the scientific community, within existing resources to facilitate the use of open-source technologies.

*13th plenary meeting
22 July 2021*

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.