The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/235 of July 1992, in which it established the mandate for Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to support the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on science and technology issues and act as a focal point for science, technology, and innovation for development,

Recalling also its resolution 72/242 of 18 January 2018, in which both the disruptive and transformative nature of rapid technological changes are re-emphasized with the matter of digital divide becoming more prominent between developed and developing nations,

Acknowledging that rapid technological change is an important component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that has the potential to make major contributions to the eradication of poverty if resources are well allocated and precision agriculture is effectively managed by all Member States,

Noting the Secretary-General Report on the impact of rapid technological change and the importance of the international community to agree upon a set of normative guidelines that can direct the potentials of technological change to serve our best interests,

Noting also that, gender is of great concern to the future of the digital world, as women’s access to and making use of the Internet is limited and deterred by pre-existing stereotypical beliefs, thus more gender-sensitive initiatives are required to ensure a more inclusive approach in a long run,

Alarmed that over 1 billion people in the world still do not have access to electricity, only half of the world population has access to Internet, and 820 million are still hungry, highlighting that pace of development is uneven around the world and that these gaps should be bridged with appropriate knowledge-sharing initiatives,

Concerned that digital capacity building for employees is not on par with the fast-paced development of technology,

Reiterates that for countries to significantly increase the standard of living by leveraging technological changes in the world, they need to improve their digital infrastructure, especially when developing countries enter North-South and South-South knowledge-sharing platforms,

Mindful that financing for development requires a paradigm shift that includes a greater focus on micro-financing for people living in poverty,
Recognizing Report of the Secretary-General, entitled “The role of science, technology, and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of science citizen,” and other relevant reports on creating sustainable technological solutions within the Member States to build communities that can reduce the trade-offs between economic development and environmental protection,

1. Invites all Member States to take advantage of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to further discuss the topic of rapid technological changes in a systematic manner through multi-stakeholder platforms to realize the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development on an international, national and regional level;

2. Calls upon the Member States to provide universal access to the Internet to the least developed countries as a first step to resolve the problem of the digital divide and that the exchange of knowledge on a large scale, cooperation between multi-stakeholders in information sharing, capacity building, transfer of technology remain the center priority of efforts to achieve sustainable development;

3. Suggests that Member States contribute to the development of normative guidelines and find a common ground to address ethical issues raised by rapid changes in technology;

4. Encourages Member States to learn from the successful campaigns of the EQUALS global partnership, the #eSkills4Girls initiative, “Equality and parity in science for peace and development” forum and organize activities on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science to encourage gender diversity in the STEM field;

5. Calls upon the Member States to further invest in the use of technology to help achieve the SDGs including the use of precision agriculture technology to increase food production and the use of electricity to create new income-generating activities in rural areas;

6. Recommends Member State to use digital technologies to improve access to quality education including free online courses known as MOOCs as a method to build capacity at a fast pace and keep up with the rapid pace of technological change in the work place;
7. Encourages Member States to establish new investment funds to finance technological research and innovation;

8. Also encourages Member States to provide technical assistance to build capacity in developing countries so that they can benefit from the economic growth in the technology sector;
9. Invites all Member States to increase support for innovative financing business models, such as micro financing to make it easier for the poor to access credit and the use of mobile devices to improve the money transfer system for remittances and other financial services;

10. Requests Member States to address ethical issues raised by the use of genetic modification techniques in agriculture, gene editing for human health and AI to make sure it is being used in a fair and transparent manner and not as tool to target and discriminate against others;

12. Affirms that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is ready to tackle challenges to realize the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and committed to cooperate with other UN agencies to work towards this goal.