

2009/9

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics¹ and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communications technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all the official languages,²

Welcoming the intensification of efforts by the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat to provide interconnectivity and unhindered Internet access to all permanent and observer missions at the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates once again* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and Observers, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services will not prejudice the access of Member States or impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives and, in that regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat, and also requests the Working Group to consider its future role, status and mandate and develop findings in that regard;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat for the continuing cooperation that it is extending to the Working Group in the endeavour to further improve the information technology services available to all permanent and observer missions at the United Nations and, in particular, for the implementation of a Member State web portal³ so as to consolidate and simplify the secure access by authorized representatives of Member States to

¹ E/2009/21.

² Resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/161 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996, 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, 1998/29 of 29 July 1998, 1999/58 of 30 July 1999, 2000/28 of 28 July 2000, 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, 2002/35 of 26 July 2002, 2003/48 of 24 July 2003, 2004/51 of 23 July 2004, 2005/12 of 22 July 2005, 2006/35 of 27 July 2006, 2007/14 of 26 July 2007 and 2008/6 of 22 July 2008.

³ www.un.int.

relevant information, for the continued upgrading and stabilizing of e-mail services for delegates, and for the continued assistance in the hosting of many mission websites, a cooperative effort of the Secretariat and the diplomatic community coordinated by the Working Group;

4. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Working Group and the Secretariat in providing training and support and raising awareness in the area of United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations and guidance, particularly with regard to the upgrading of web-based services, including through the replacement of the CandiWeb elections and candidatures site;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010 on action taken in follow-up to the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

*38th plenary meeting
27 July 2009*