Draft Statement on Globalization and Interdependence, United Nations, New York, 23 October 2013

Delivered by

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Mr Chairman

South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Representatives of Fiji and Ethiopia on behalf of the Group of 77+China and Africa Group respectively.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the matter under discussion.

Mr Chairman

Globalization is the reality of today’s economic landscape. If we are to help countries exploit the opportunities afforded by globalization, a well-coordinated and effective multilateral approach is needed to manage it.

South Africa believes that forging coherence in advancing the development goals in a globalizing world economy is paramount. South Africa acknowledges the importance of mainstreaming science and technology into the existing UN development agenda, including the post 2015 Development Agenda.

Overcoming the complex, interrelated global challenges of the twenty-first century, including poverty, inequality and unemployment, in pursuit of sustainable development, will require multiple and complementary interventions. Through innovation in science and technology, humanity will be able to better address obstacles to sustainable development and contribute to a better quality of life for present and future generations.
As the SG noted in his Report, expanded deepened partnerships around science, technology and innovation are essential to ensuring that the benefits of advances in these sectors are broadly shared. For our part, South Africa is committed to promoting the principles which underpin South-South Cooperation, for developing countries to support one another, in sharing best practices on science, technology and innovation policies, transferring technology and knowledge and establishing regional innovation ecosystems.

Mr Chairman

Human Capital is a critical factor for development in the areas of science, technology and innovation. A renewed commitment on the part of the international community is essential to support national efforts of developing countries for capacity building. It is unfortunate that intellectual property rights frequently exclude the world’s poor from accessing the end products of investments in science, technology and innovation and yet these are the very people who need such access the most.

The UN System should give serious consideration to promoting an enabling international environment where intellectual property does not constitute a barrier to equitable distribution of the benefits that arise from innovation and technology transfer.

South Africa and other eight African partner countries co-host the bulk of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the world’s largest radio telescope. As a global scientific project, the SKA will open many doors of opportunity for emerging African scientists to collaborate with some of the world’s best in the field of astronomy.

Mr Chairman,

South Africa has ratified the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. Through this Charter South Africa will strengthen efforts towards African unity and solidarity, as well as contribute to the unity of our Continent. The Charter will also support the work we are doing to promote our cultural and creative industries as vehicles for social cohesion, nation building, job creation, economic growth and the building of sustainable livelihoods.
Mr Chairman,

South Africa believes that creative and cultural industries play a critical role; (a) in contributing to nation building, social cohesion and national healing; (b) supporting local economic development.

As noted by the SG, culture and creative industries represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors in the global economy, accounting for 3 to 4 per cent of the world’s GDP. The arts and other parts of the creative economy have a potential to generate employment and export earnings. They are thus an asset that needs investment to provide opportunities for more people, often outside the formal economy.

Mr Chairman

In conclusion, as Member States, we require a UN system that is effective, efficient, coherent and responsive to the needs of developing countries. South Africa believes that the United Nations must remain the pillar for the global dialogue on globalization and interdependence where the voices of the poorest also get heard. South Africa concurs with the Secretary General that the United Nations should continue to serve as a hub for candid and inclusive exchange on issues relating to globalization and interdependence.