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Introduction

The General Assembly Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council will hold a joint meeting on 11 October !1"# The joint meeting will engage in an o$en% multi&disci$linary discussion on "The future of everything – sustainable development in the age of rapid technological change". The (ed in technology and i
recent years% with differentiated im$acts on eole and roserity# It will a
multilateral institutions% $articularly the)nited *ations% should res$ond to
scientific and technological $rogress# It will $articularly focus on identifying
$otential of technological change to achie(e sustainable de(elo$ment# It wi
ris's and benefits of technological ad(ancements% and focus on what $olicy a
to ensure that no one is left behind in an age of ra$id technological change#

Conte,t

The future will no longer be what we once thought# It is widely ac'nowledged that the $ace and breadth of technological change is intensifying# In the year !-!% when the Sustainable .e(elo$ment Goals embedded in the !-! Agenda for Sustainable .e(elo$ment are to be met% the world will ha(e undergone a $eriod of dee$ changes with regards to the design of many day&to&day human interactions# Already% e,am$les of how technological inno(ation has changed our daily li(es are omni$resent# In a (ery short time s$an% cell $hones ha(e become indis$ensable $arts of daily routines of billions of eole# /acilitating na(igation% ban'ing transactions% and social networ'ing% new technologies ha(e changed human beha(iour and informal norms#

In industrial $rocesses% e(er&more com$le, o$erations are being ta'en o(er by roboti0ed $lants% with human inter(ention confined to design% control% and +uality analysis# The ra$id growth in large datasets% as well as the ca$acity to store and analyse big data% is ha(ing a dee$ im$act on our economies and societies at large#)bi+uitous com$uting% facilitated by ad(ances in the Internet of Things% in combination with 1G% big data% and nanotech% among others% will be the 'ey dri(ers for change# 2o(ing to 3new frontiers4% self&dri(ing cars and ser(ice robots are no longer fiction# 5hile

im$ro(ed algorithms ha(e s$urred $rogress in artificial intelligence% the conse+uences of the latter for human interactions in all as$ects of life ha(e only started to be felt# 5e may truly be at the beginning of what has been referred to as the 6/ourth Industrial 7e(olution8[1]#

/or the global wor'force% there are negati(e and $ositi(e as$ects to these $rofound changes underway in technology% while some of their effects are yet un'nown# It has been estimated that o(er a billion jobs are 3automatable4 with the use of current technologies% and the emergence of -&. $rinting has the $otential to disru$t and re(olutioni0e e,isting $roduction $atterns# Inno(ation and technological ad(ances will act as catalysts for the transformation of the global economy% and societies at large in the u$coming decades#

In other areas% technological inno(ation is continuing to hel$ing increase the $roducti(ity of arable land% offering solutions for climate&smart agriculture% as well as for agro&based industrial de(elo$ment to foster food security# Progress in medical research to cure diseases and to design $ersonali0ed treatments for $atients is also $romising#

In many of these areas% ethical +uestions arise% +uestioning how technological ad(ancements which% if not addressed% ris' to undermine e,isting societal norms# Similarly% the challenge of cybersecurity and the increasing use of drones re(eal the need to sha$e new $olicies and regulations to $ro(ide framewor's for the trans$arent use of big data and artificial intelligence#

9owe(er% $ublic res$onse is lagging technological $rogress# Go(ernments are widely seen as being behind the cur(e on many of these technological changes# :et% they are re+uired to $artner with industries% academia and ci(il society to ensure that technology% including artificial intelligence% de(elo$s in a trans$arent% ethical and res$onsible

/ormat

The joint meeting will ta**'**e the form of a three&hour e**,$**ert **$**anel **$**resentation and interacti**(**e discussion# Presenters will be drawn from Go**(**ernment% academia% the **$**ri**(**ate sector% and ci**(**il society# The meeting will be chaired jointly by the President of the Council and the Chair of the Second Committee# It will be moderated by an e**,$**erienced and well&**'**nown e**,$**ert journalist#

The joint meeting will be su**$$**orted by Office for ECOSOC Su**$$**ort and Coordination of **.** ESA# **/**eedbac**'** has been recei**(**ed from IT**)**% **5** IPO% **)*** CTA**.** and **)*** ESCO% as well as other **.** ESA **.i(**isions# **<**ey institutional and other sta**'**eholders in the areas of technology% inno**(**ation as well as trade and in**(**estment will be in**(**ited to **$**ro**(**ide in**$**uts for the substanti**(**e **$**re**$**aration of the meeting#

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19 September 201