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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Algeria, Angola, Bahamas (The), Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe:* draft resolution

“Correct the map”: rebalancing global cartographic representation and promoting equitable representation of the world’s regions, particularly Africa

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, as well as respect for human dignity and the establishment of friendly relations among nations,

Reaffirming the principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ according to which all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,

Reaffirming also the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ which promote equality and the right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, the right to education and the right to participate in cultural life,

* Any changes to the list of sponsors will be reflected in the official record of the meeting.

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ Ibid.



Recalling its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, through which it reaffirmed the need to ensure access for all to equitable and quality education at all levels,

Recalling also the mandate of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote inclusive, equitable and quality education, as well as the development of critical thinking and mutual understanding among peoples,

Recognizing the essential role of geospatial information, as highlighted by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, as a fundamental infrastructure for effective governance, evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/24](#) of 22 July 2022, in which the Council underlined the need to improve coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, particularly in developing countries,

Taking note of the work of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework,

Emphasizing that cartographic representations constitute an essential component of geospatial information and have a lasting influence on the perception and understanding of territorial realities on a global scale,

Considering that maps constitute a fundamental educational, scientific and cultural tool that shapes the perception of the world and the collective imagination of peoples,

Recalling the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, in particular article 3 relating to the rehabilitation and enhancement of African heritage,

Recognizing that certain cartographic distortions of sizes of continents, inherited from history, have contributed to their incorrect perceptions, leading in particular to a symbolic minimization of Africa in collective imaginations and knowledge systems,

Recalling its resolution [69/266](#) of 26 February 2015 aimed at strengthening international cooperation for a global geodetic reference frame essential for navigation, mapping, combating climate change and risk management,

Recognizing that a variety of map projections have been developed over time, using different methods and preserving different cartographic properties, that no single projection can perfectly represent the curved surface of the Earth on a plane, and that each projection is therefore suited to particular purposes, while noting that the present resolution is particularly concerned with projections that preserve the relative sizes of the world’s regions and the proportional representation of their surface areas, and is without prejudice to the established practice with regard to the use of cartographic material for navigational purposes,

Noting that the Mercator projection, designed in the sixteenth century for navigational purposes, remains widely used in educational, media, digital and official materials, despite the considerable distortion of landmasses to the North and South, far from the equator, that it induces to the detriment of equatorial regions,

Noting with concern that this distortion contributes to minimizing the perceived sizes of Africa, Latin America and South Asia, and perpetuating an unbalanced view of the world,

Considering the need to promote equitable development, and stressing that cartographic distortions of continental sizes contribute to minimizing the extent of socioeconomic realities, infrastructure needs, development potential and prosperity

in the Southern regions, and that they can fuel prejudices in the environmental, geopolitical and security fields,

Welcoming the proclamation of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034), and considering that this period is appropriate to address issues that constitute historical injustices,

Welcoming also the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22 and 23 September 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, during which resolution 79/1, entitled “The Pact for the Future”, and its annexes were adopted, and stressing, *inter alia*, the need to eliminate the vestiges of historical and structural inequalities and to eradicate all forms of discrimination,

Noting the proclamation by the African Union of 2025 as the year of “Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations”, and decision Assembly/AU/Dec.942 (XXXIX), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2026 in Addis Ababa, endorsing the period 2026–2035 as a decade of action dedicated to justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations,

Bearing in mind decision Assembly/AU/Dec.955 (XXXIX), by which the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took note of the final declaration of the ninth Pan-African Congress held from 8 to 12 December 2025 in Lomé, and its recommendations, which urged the African Union and Member States to submit a formal request to the United Nations to correct the disproportionate cartographic representations of the continent,

Taking note of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.959 (XXXIX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union relating to the initiative “Correcting the map of Africa on the globe”, adopted in February 2026 in Addis Ababa,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption by the African Union of the Equal Earth cartographic projection, which more accurately represents the sizes of all continents, particularly Africa,

Convinced that correcting cartographic distortions of continental sizes constitutes an act of cognitive justice and memorial reparation, understood as promoting accurate geographical knowledge, as well as historical truth, education and awareness-raising, and promotes mutual understanding among peoples,

1. *Affirms* that cartographic distortions of continental sizes inherited from history have cognitive, educational, cultural, geopolitical and socioeconomic impacts and constitute historical biases, the correction of which will promote recognition, justice and development, particularly with regard to the African continent;

2. *Recognizes* that the Mercator projection, widely used around the world, particularly distorts, from the perspective of area representation, continental masses located far from the equator, resulting in a proportional shrinkage of Africa and other regions;

3. *Declares* that the Equal Earth cartographic projection offers a more accurate representation of the sizes of continental landmasses and to this end is a relevant option for improving the accuracy of the cartographic representation of the world;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to promote more accurate and scientifically sound cartographic representations of the globe;

5. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations and other relevant entities to adopt, disseminate and use the Equal Earth cartographic projection and equal area map projection methods, which more accurately reproduce the actual areas of the continents, where their sizes are critical;

6. *Encourages* the development of international standards aimed at ensuring more accurate representation of sizes of continents in digital and printed mapping tools, in accordance with relevant United Nations frameworks;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and other relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective mandates, to collaborate with regional organizations, including the African Union, and academia in order to:

(a) Promote more accurate, internationally accepted geospatial, geodetics and cartographic standards to reflect the accurate sizes of continents, where appropriate;

(b) Support the improvement of educational curricula relating to geospatial education, research, innovation and skills development, to reflect more accurate sizes of continents;

(c) Encourage the production and distribution of authoritative and scientifically accurate geospatial information and maps that conform to the actual surface areas of the continents;

(d) Strengthen national geospatial capabilities;

8. *Urges* global technology platforms to engage in constructive dialogue with Member States and regional organizations with a view to promoting more accurate cartographic representations, including the Equal Earth cartographic projection of the globe, according to United Nations principles, standards and guidelines;

9. *Invites* technology companies and digital actors, as appropriate, to promote transparent and inclusive practices in the representation of continental sizes, taking into account applicable United Nations principles, standards and guidelines and international law;

10. *Urges* Member States, international institutions and civil society organizations to explain to users the methods of cartographic projections, including their characteristics, limitations and appropriate applications, and, acknowledging that each projection serves specific cartographic purposes, to undertake awareness-raising initiatives aimed at strengthening, among the populations concerned and the general public, geographical knowledge, strategic understanding and awareness of the cultural and historical significance of cartographic representations of continental sizes for collective identity, including through information and communications technologies and artificial intelligence;

11. *Encourages* Member States to:

(a) Integrate the critical teaching of cartography into school curricula to raise awareness of more accurate continental sizes;

(b) Promote the use of cartographic representations, depending on the intended use, that more accurately reflect continental sizes and geographical realities, including the Equal Earth cartographic projection;

(c) Raise awareness among educational, scientific and media stakeholders about issues related to cartographic projection biases;

12. *Invites* Member States, international organizations, academia and specialized bodies to:

(a) Develop, adopt and disseminate internationally recognized standards, guidelines and good practices for more accurate and authoritative geospatial cartographic representation of sizes of continents in accordance with United Nations principles, standards and guidelines;

(b) Promote research and innovation in the field of map projections;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, while taking into account different national circumstances, in the field of mapping and geospatial information;

14. *Encourages* capacity-building in developing countries, particularly African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, in the areas of cartography, geomatics, geodesy and geospatial technologies, including through international cooperation, technical assistance, training, knowledge-sharing, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, improved access to geospatial data and support for the development of national geospatial information infrastructures;

15. *Invites* all Member States to promote the “Correct the map” initiative in order to promote a more accurate representation of continental sizes globally;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, until and including at its eighty-third session, information on the implementation of the present resolution, within existing resources, in relevant existing reports submitted to the General Assembly, as appropriate;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-third session an item entitled “Promotion of accurate cartographic representation of continents for educational and socioeconomic purposes and strengthening of technical assistance in geospatial capabilities of developing countries”.
