



Seventieth session

Agenda item 9

Report of the Economic and Social Council**South Africa:* draft resolution****Extension of the preparatory period preceding the graduation of the Republic of Vanuatu from the least developed country category***The General Assembly,**Recalling* its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004, 67/221 of 21 December 2012 and 68/18 of 4 December 2013,*Reaffirming its commitment* to the process of graduation from least developed country status and to encouraging smooth transition measures for graduating countries,*Giving due consideration* to the unprecedented human and material losses which Vanuatu suffered as a result of Cyclone Pam on 13 and 14 March 2015, and to the serious disruption this natural disaster caused to the economic and social progress Vanuatu had for several years been demonstrating,*Inviting* the international community to generously support the rehabilitation and disaster preparedness efforts undertaken by the Government of Vanuatu in this context,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the severe consequences for Vanuatu of Cyclone Pam of 13 and 14 March 2015;
2. *Decides* to extend by an additional period of three years, until 4 December 2020, the preparatory period that Vanuatu is currently benefiting from, before graduation from the least developed country category occurs;
3. *Underlines* the exceptional nature of this decision, taken in the context of the unique disruption caused to the economic and social progress of Vanuatu by Cyclone Pam.

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

