



# Chief Executives Board for Coordination

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## Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-fourth session

(Paris, 29 and 30 September 2022)

### I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its forty-fourth session at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris on 29 and 30 September 2022. The agenda of the session and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present report.

2. In welcoming the Committee to the session, her first since the Secretary-General had appointed her as the Chair of HLCP, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen, expressed her regret at not being able to chair the session in person owing to prior commitments. She thanked the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO, Gabriela Ramos, for physically presiding over the session as Acting Chair and UNESCO itself for hosting the event. She was honoured to assume the role of Chair and appreciated the opportunity to serve in that capacity at a critical juncture for the United Nations system.

3. The Chair acknowledged the challenging context in which the United Nations system was operating, notably the impacts of the triple planetary crisis (climate disruption, biodiversity loss and pollution), the war in Ukraine, rising inflation and cost of living, shrinking fiscal space, exacerbated inequalities, environmental degradation, the erosion of human rights, rapid technological developments and the risk of a global recession. In view of those cascading challenges, the United Nations system was needed more than ever; its work on, in particular, climate change, the delivery of humanitarian aid, peacekeeping operations and support for developing countries was indispensable.

4. The Chair reiterated that a key function of HLCP was to serve as a forward-looking “think tank” for the United Nations system and to anticipate emerging issues that were bound to have an impact on its policies and programmes. Expressing her appreciation for the commitment and contributions of every HLCP member entity in advancing the Committee’s work, the Chair acknowledged the value of the strategic narrative agreed at its forty-second session in October 2021. She commended recent outputs, notably a discussion paper entitled “Valuing what counts: United Nations system-wide contribution on progress beyond gross domestic product” (approved by



HLCP at an intersessional meeting in July 2022 (see [CEB/2022/8](#)) and subsequently taken note of by CEB in August 2022) and the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system (approved by HLCP in July 2022 and endorsed by CEB in September 2022). Both those outputs exemplified the best that the system had to offer in terms of intellectual heft and the promotion of policy and programmatic coherence. In that connection, the Chair also acknowledged the thought leadership provided by the Committee's ad hoc mechanisms: the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, the inequalities task team and the Foresight Network.

5. The Chair noted that the forty-fourth session was being held at an opportune moment to reflect on how the United Nations system could best contribute as a whole to the implementation of some of the recommendations contained in I Our Common Agenda report of the Secretary-General, to the preparations for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024, and to the work of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, taking into consideration recent global developments as well as deliberations by Member States. The Chair also emphasized that the Committee's work across the three pillars of its strategic narrative – on promoting duties to the future, protecting new global public goods, and facilitating networked and inclusive governance – had important elements in common with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Our Common Agenda.

6. In view of the widening and multiplying inequalities around the world, the Chair argued that the only viable course was to rally all the United Nations system entities around a shared and coherent commitment to tackle all types of inequality in their fields of work. She indicated that the Committee would remain seized of the issue of how to address inequalities in the present and for future generations, and encouraged members to deepen the conversation further, especially with regard to international finance, which they could do through the various HLCP workstreams and ad hoc mechanisms.

7. The Chair stressed that in addition to the impactful nature of the Committee's work, the way in which members came together in HLCP as a trusted space for policy discussions and strategic thinking was to be valued, promoted and preserved. She supported the enhancement of two-way communication between HLCP and CEB, as well as the strengthening of coordination and synergies between HLCP and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and other mechanisms. In a context of constrained resources and proliferating challenges, connecting the policy coherence and think-tank work of HLCP with other mechanisms was essential to fulfilling the mandates of the organizations involved and meeting people's expectations of the United Nations system.

8. In presenting the agenda of the session for adoption by the Committee, the Chair noted that HLCP had an opportunity to consider how it could best contribute to the follow-up to the report on Our Common Agenda, and to engage in dialogue with the Co-Chairs of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. The Committee would also discuss the progress made under the three pillars of its strategic narrative. Furthermore, it would revisit the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system to identify priority areas for implementation. Finally, members would review progress on the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development, and consider how their respective entities could work together to better support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

9. Representatives of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Office for Disarmament Affairs attended the session, strengthening the overall representation of entities from the peace and security pillar and enhancing the Committee's ability to coordinate and generate synergies across pillars.

## **II. Reflection on the Committee’s contribution to the implementation of processes under Our Common Agenda in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

10. Taking up the first item on the agenda, the Acting Chair, Ms. Ramos, invited members to reflect on the Committee’s contribution to the implementation of processes under Our Common Agenda in support of the 2030 Agenda. The item consisted of two parts, the first a presentation and discussion on the follow-up to Our Common Agenda, and the second a dialogue with the Co-Chairs of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. The objective was to review the Committee’s current work against the backdrop of both the 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda, and to determine how the full weight of the United Nations system could be most usefully leveraged through HLCP.

11. The Acting Chair recalled that at its forty-second session in October 2021, HLCP had approved a strategic narrative based on three pillars – duties to the future, new global public goods, and networked and inclusive governance – that was intended to guide the Committee’s work over the next two to three years. More specifically, the strategic narrative sought to position HLCP so that it could support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda more effectively while also serving as an enabling force for some of the transformative ideas in the Our Common Agenda report presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in September 2021. The three-pillar framework had been conceived as sufficiently broad to encompass the Committee’s ongoing efforts and as sufficiently flexible to respond to new challenges and needs, such as those arising from the cascading crises to which the HLCP Chair had referred in her opening remarks. The Acting Chair observed that the discussion under the current agenda item provided an opportunity to determine how the work on which the Committee had embarked a year earlier could most usefully feed into broader processes, and whether new needs or priorities had emerged to which the Committee ought to direct its attention.

12. The Acting Chair recalled how HLCP had successfully fulfilled the request of the Secretary-General and CEB by producing a United Nations system-wide contribution on progress beyond GDP that had been approved in July 2022. The report in question had been submitted to the Secretary-General to assist him in proceeding with political outreach and advocacy work among Member States. In addition, there were several interlinkages between the work of HLCP and other elements of Our Common Agenda that were taking clearer shape, notably the Summit of the Future planned for 2024 and its supporting tracks, as well as the recommendations to be issued by the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. Members would be updated on the various processes and would have the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions.

### **Follow-up to Our Common Agenda**

13. Turning first to the follow-up actions on Our Common Agenda, the Acting Chair introduced the three presenters: the Director of the Our Common Agenda team, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Michèle Griffin, who was to provide the Committee with a broad update on consultations related to, and the implementation of, Our Common Agenda; and the Chief of the Section for Sustainable Development Goal 4 Leadership, UNESCO, Lily Neyestani-Hailu, and the Director of the Programme Group, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Sanjay Wijesekera, who were to give a joint presentation on the Transforming Education Summit.

14. Ms. Griffin provided an overview of the Our Common Agenda process to date. Recalling the mandate for the Secretary-General contained in the Declaration on the

commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (resolution [75/1](#)), she summarized the content of the ensuing report ([A/75/982](#)). About 80 per cent of the report's proposals had been derived from, and were designed to boost, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; the remainder were new ideas for consideration by Member States, which could be addressed in connection with the Summit of the Future. She underscored that Our Common Agenda had become even more relevant since its launch in September 2021, as the world had changed in several significant respects in the intervening period.

15. After describing the ensuing intergovernmental process to consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General, Ms. Griffin drew attention to some agreed actions that had already flowed from the report, such as the convening of the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, and the drafting of an elements paper for a Declaration on Future Generations under the oversight of co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly. In addition, the General Assembly had recently adopted a resolution on the modalities for the Summit of the Future (resolution [76/307](#)), deciding, among other things, that it would be held in September 2024, to be preceded by a preparatory ministerial meeting in September 2023, and that it would be coordinated closely with and complement the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023. Ms. Griffin explained that the Secretary-General would seek to provide inputs for the Summit of the Future in the form of policy briefs or vision statements to be issued in the first half of 2023, to which HLCP members could be invited to contribute, as appropriate.

16. While the tracks of the Summit had yet to be decided on by Member States, Ms. Griffin outlined several options proposed by the Secretary-General, including a New Agenda for Peace, a Global Digital Compact, a Declaration on Future Generations, a dialogue on outer space and an emergency response platform for complex crises. Referring to the United Nations system-wide contribution on progress beyond GDP, that is, the "Valuing what counts" paper, she also expressed the hope that Member States would agree in principle to move beyond GDP as a metric of progress – a task that required both technical and political efforts. The High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism was expected to make recommendations on areas of weakness and gaps that needed to be filled across the broad framework of international cooperation, which could lead to additional recommendations for consideration by Member States, for example on the global financial architecture. She argued that, in the meantime, work on the many other proposals contained in Our Common Agenda should continue through existing processes and mandates, with care taken to avoid duplication, and that the United Nations system should strive to fully harness the momentum generated by the report and the ensuing intergovernmental discussions.

17. Ms. Neyestani-Hailu and Mr. Wijesekera began their presentation by reflecting on the recently concluded Transforming Education Summit – the first major deliverable of Our Common Agenda – with a view to sharing lessons that could be useful to the United Nations system in supporting other tracks. Convened by the Secretary-General in response to the global education crisis, the Summit had sought to place education at the top of the political agenda and to promote action, ambition, cooperation, solutions and interventions aimed at transforming education systems. Three workstreams had been pursued in the six months leading up to the Summit: national multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral consultations, public engagement (with a particular focus on youth participation), and thematic action tracks to mobilize the international community in support of the Summit. A "Pre-Summit" had been held in June 2022 to build up momentum towards the Summit proper in September.

Structured into three days (Mobilization Day, Solutions Day and Leaders Day), the Summit had attracted more than 2,000 participants.

18. Seven global initiatives had emerged from the Summit, dealing with the “greening” of education; digital transformation; the advancement of gender equality, and girls’ and women’s empowerment; education in crisis situations; foundational learning; transforming the financing of education; and youth empowerment. Other outcomes included a vision statement by the Secretary-General, the International Finance Facility for Education, the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education, and commitments by Heads of State and Government and the executive heads of United Nations system entities to support countries in achieving their transformational education agendas.

19. Ms. Neyestani-Hailu and Mr. Wijesekera underlined the vital role of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 Education 2030 High-level Steering Committee, as the global apex body for education, in supporting and monitoring the effective implementation of the global initiatives and national commitments that had arisen from the Transforming Education Summit. The Steering Committee would establish an accountability framework, including a set of indicators to capture progress, on which there would be annual reports at the Global Education Meetings. The aim was to ensure that the commitments were translated into concrete actions and that countries received the support they required. Another challenge was to maintain the momentum generated by the Transforming Education Summit throughout the lead-up to the Summit of the Future in 2024, where education had to feature prominently and be appropriately linked to the broader agenda. The presenters also stressed the need to continue prioritizing the meaningful, substantive engagement of young people.

20. Much of the ensuing discussion among the members centred on the relationship between the Summit of the Future and the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals Summit, which the Secretary-General had referred to as “twin summits”. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held on 19 and 20 September 2023 – just after the ministerial meeting on the Summit of the Future – would review the status of implementation of the Goals, provide policy guidance, galvanize action and consider challenges that had arisen since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. It presented an opportunity to rekindle hope, begin to reverse the negative trends that were thwarting progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and inject new momentum into efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda. The Summit was expected to conclude with the adoption of a concise and action-oriented declaration with innovative recommendations that HLCP members stressed should build on the follow-up to other processes – including the United Nations Food Systems Summit (2021), the Transforming Education Summit (2022), the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, the Generation Equality Forum (2021) and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) – to ensure that those recommendations were aligned with and reinforced existing initiatives. The outcome declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit would need to respond to the multiple crises that the world was facing, and be geared towards implementation, action and transformation.

21. Members recognized that the Summit of the Future would complement the Sustainable Development Goals Summit by addressing elements of the enabling environment required to achieve the Goals, as detailed in Ms. Griffin’s presentation. By taking up peace, multilateralism and the interests of future generations, among other topics, the Summit of the Future would help to accelerate progress towards the Goals. While both Summits were expected to “turbocharge” implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, it was suggested that HLCP could help to identify the distinctions between the two events and how to project them more clearly in public communications and from a policy perspective. Tightening up and aligning

terminology to ensure that it was used and understood consistently across different contexts would also be helpful in that regard.

22. Members felt that the entire United Nations system should be engaged in the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and that HLCP had an important collective contribution to make. It was observed that accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was in the interests of all HLCP member entities, and that it would be useful for them to consider together how that could be conveyed through the Summit. With regard to the preparation of the next Sustainable Development Goals Report, an appeal was directed to members to find an appropriate way of using both official data and data from other sources to paint a picture of implementation of the Goals to which leaders could relate and use as a basis for future policy action.

23. Given its function as a forward-looking think tank for the United Nations system, HLCP was considered to have an important role to play in providing meaningful input for the Summit of the Future over the next two years, including by bringing substance and direction to emerging, future-oriented topics. Collectively, the United Nations system could help to uplift the international community's vision for the future by informing and inspiring the relevant negotiations. Members welcomed the opportunity for HLCP to contribute to the policy briefs to be issued by the Secretary-General in support of the intergovernmental process, which would tie in with both the Committee's past work and its current focus on duties to the future, new global public goods, and networked and inclusive governance. A specific opportunity was highlighted for United Nations system entities to collaborate with external partners in promoting the increased use of green technologies in the implementation of Our Common Agenda. Potentially complementing the contributions of HLCP, a working group on Our Common Agenda had been established at the meeting of the principals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on 28 September 2022; the terms of reference of the working group and an outline of its deliverables were currently being drawn up.

24. Reviewing expectations for the Summit of the Future, members asked about stakeholder engagement, plans for a multisectoral approach and gaps in the follow-up activities. They also asked what else United Nations system entities could do to support the preparations for the Summit apart from contributing to the policy briefs, how ambitious the outcome document tentatively entitled "A Pact for the Future" was likely to be, whether any benchmarking and monitoring mechanisms were envisaged for the Pact, and whether it was possible to begin mobilizing communities in support of Our Common Agenda. The Summit's focus on tangible solutions was welcomed, as was the vision for broad multi-stakeholder participation. The importance of inclusive consultations involving the governments of all Member States from all regions and the need to engage with government officials from all policy areas, not just foreign affairs, were emphasized.

25. Given the dire situation with regard to rising inequalities and discrimination – an area for priority action highlighted in Our Common Agenda – the possibility of adding a visible track on that theme as an outcome of the Summit was raised. HLCP could bring together the United Nations system entities to help to create the political space for such a track, which, like efforts to promote human rights and gender equality, was a cross-cutting endeavour. In that regard, concern was expressed over the way in which inequalities were built into the current systems. It was therefore crucial for the Summit of the Future to address that issue. In addition, members stressed that an inequalities lens and a human rights lens should be applied to the planned policy briefs because of their universality and applicability across all contexts.

26. In relation to progress beyond GDP specifically, the importance of translating commitments into real action was stressed. The Summit of the Future would provide a valuable political arena for such discussions. It was agreed that the development of broader measures of progress and well-being should be an expert- and country-driven process that must build organically on the work already being performed by experts from Member States in the Statistical Commission. The United Nations system entities would have to work together to support national information systems with the production and compilation of statistics on any new metrics that were finally agreed on.

27. Members congratulated UNESCO and UNICEF on the successful Transforming Education Summit, noting the value of the multisectoral approach adopted, which was relevant for the Summit of the Future as well. In terms of lessons learned, early and robust planning would be vital to the success of the Summit of the Future in 2024 and to the preparatory ministerial meeting in 2023. At the Summit of the Future it would likewise be important to showcase the collective action of United Nations system entities joining forces. In the same vein, the need to ensure that the whole was greater than the sum of its parts was stressed. Other features of the Transforming Education Summit and the United Nations Food Systems Summit that were relevant to the planning of the Summit of the Future included the incorporation of accountability and follow-up mechanisms from the very outset to ensure that commitments were fulfilled; bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders in an effective manner; and giving young people an active role in shaping solutions. The Generation Equality Forum was singled out as another recent example of networked and inclusive multilateralism that could help to catalyse implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – in particular Goal 5 on gender equality – and amplify the voices of young people.

28. Indeed, the importance of meaningful youth engagement in the implementation of Our Common Agenda and in other United Nations processes repeatedly came to the fore in the Committee's deliberations. The need for the United Nations system to connect different issues in a way that did justice to the aspirations of young people was specifically highlighted. It was suggested that youth engagement could be a worthwhile topic for HLCP to take up, with the aim of bringing together ideas and activities from across the United Nations system.

29. The wide-ranging discussion brought to light many additional points in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and implementation of Our Common Agenda. It was reported that progress was being made on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions through efforts in three tracks, namely technical assistance, multilateralism and financing, the third of which remained the greatest challenge. More generally, it was stressed that financing and reforms were critical to ensure that there were sufficient resources for the social sector. Greater emphasis could be placed on quantifying the projected shortfall in financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, and on studying development trends to prevent funding cuts in areas that were key for the long-term implementation of the Goals. In that regard, concern was voiced over the fact that core funding for United Nations system entities had decreased during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

30. It was observed that the United Nations system ought to be more future-oriented and future-literate. Specifically, a more forward-leaning and prevention-focused New Agenda for Peace that was ambitious yet realistic was seen as important to advance the 2030 Agenda. Peace and peacebuilding were mainstays of development since they strengthened trust and social cohesion. By implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, many of the root causes of conflict could be addressed, which meant that such efforts were a good basis for structural prevention. The New Agenda for Peace would be the subject of a dedicated discussion at the forthcoming CEB session in October, which would provide an opportunity to examine the matter further.

Moreover, it was suggested that the outcomes of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 could provide policy guidance to support the integration of risk reduction into the implementation of the recommendations from the Our Common Agenda report and into other intergovernmental processes through the HLCP workstreams on duties of the future, strategic foresight, inequalities and artificial intelligence.

31. While certain aspects related to digital data were expected to be addressed in the Global Digital Compact, it was stressed that data issues as such went beyond the realm of technology and therefore ought to be addressed more broadly as part of the Summit of the Future. The point was made that the United Nations could do more to support Member States in developing productive sectors, and it was argued in that respect that trade could be used as a mechanism for achieving various innovative outcomes. Attention was also drawn to the impacts of population dynamics and trends in human mobility on the transfer of social, cultural and human capital worldwide, and to their implications in terms of deepening inequalities, in particular in the field of health care. It was proposed that the provision of asylum be considered a global public good.

32. In her closing remarks, Ms. Griffin expressed her appreciation to members for the rich discussion and offered clarifications and comments. She stressed that the Secretary-General considered existing commitments to be the “what”, that is, what needed to be done, and Our Common Agenda to be the “how”, that is, the blueprint for how to cooperate on solving the problems that prevented the commitments from being fulfilled. The level of ambition was expected to vary depending on the track: some might be able to reach agreement on the main principles by 2024, while others might achieve more. She emphasized that existing committees, processes and institutions would be used to the extent possible in following up on Our Common Agenda, as outlined in the implementation matrix maintained by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. If any entities wished to contribute, they were welcome to do so; the aim was to pull the whole United Nations system together. There was still the opportunity to shape the tracks feeding into the Summit of the Future, including through the new working group on Our Common Agenda established by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Ms. Griffin argued that it was not premature to rally people around Our Common Agenda to create pressure for change. She assured members that financing, including in relation to trade and taxation, was the crux of the envisioned change and that the Secretary-General was focused on that issue. The High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism was also examining the international financial architecture and would accordingly benefit from hearing the views of United Nations system entities on the subject.

33. In concluding the first part of the item, the Acting Chair reiterated how the United Nations system-wide contribution on progress beyond GDP, that is, the “Valuing what counts” paper, was intended to feed into the follow-up to Our Common Agenda. Noting that the contribution needed to be introduced to Member States by the Secretary-General, she highlighted its multidimensional approach to well-being, which touched on questions of inequality and sustainability. More broadly, she reaffirmed that all United Nations system entities had a role to play in supporting the implementation of Our Common Agenda under the leadership of the Secretary-General. HLCP stood ready to facilitate the process as appropriate, including through the promotion of policy coherence. The Acting Chair emphasized that key elements of the follow-up to Our Common Agenda were Member State-led and that the United Nations system should not seek to anticipate the relevant intergovernmental processes, but at the same time that entities could act strategically, in line with their mandates and areas of expertise, to support ambitious outcomes.



## Conclusion

34. **The Committee affirmed its readiness to make its analytical capacity available and to draw on the full range of United Nations system entities, subject matter expertise and networks in order to support and contribute to the follow-up activities under Our Common Agenda in areas where it could offer added value, in line with its strategic narrative.**

35. **The Committee also agreed to contribute, as appropriate for each United Nations system entity, to the technical and analytical support for efforts to advance beyond GDP, once the proposal had been introduced to Member States by the Secretary-General.**

## Dialogue with the Co-Chairs of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism

36. The Acting Chair opened the second part of the first agenda item by inviting the Committee to continue, in a dialogue with the Co-Chairs of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, its reflection on the contribution by HLCP to the implementation of processes under Our Common Agenda in support of the 2030 Agenda. She welcomed the Co-Chairs, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Stefan Löfven of Sweden, and recalled that the Advisory Board had been asked by the Secretary-General to build on the ideas presented in Our Common Agenda and to make specific suggestions for more effective multilateral arrangements across a range of key global issues. The Acting Chair noted that the aim of the dialogue was to provide the Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board with thoughts and feedback, focusing on recommendations or recommendation areas that the Board could adopt in its report, as well as to identify additional ways in which the United Nations system could complement or contribute to the implementation of Our Common Agenda, in support of the 2030 Agenda.

37. Providing background on the High-level Advisory Board's mandate, the Executive Director of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, David Passarelli, recalled that the Board had been established in March 2022 and was composed of 12 members, including representatives of such constituencies as young people, faith communities, academia and civil society, and that the Centre for Policy Research served as secretariat for the Board. He noted that the diversity of its membership had enriched the Board's work and discussions over the past months, which had been devoted to investigating issues that called for more effective multilateral cooperation and to identifying ways of achieving that. The aim was to deliver a report to the Secretary-General by April 2023, which it was hoped would serve as one of the building blocks for the preparation of the Summit of the Future in September 2024. The Board was looking into existing institutional and legal arrangements, gaps and emerging priorities across a range of topics, with a particular focus on greater equity and fairness in global decision-making. Mr. Passarelli indicated that the Co-Chairs had welcomed the opportunity to engage with the United Nations community through HLCP in the light of the Committee's function as an internal think tank.

38. In her statement, Ms. Johnson Sirleaf reiterated that the main takeaway emerging from the consultations with different stakeholders was the need for greater equity and inclusiveness. The Advisory Board was focusing on how to strengthen peace and security, including by identifying the reforms that were necessary in organizations with relevant mandates; on how to achieve financial inclusiveness so that all countries were able to access the resources available in both the private and public sectors; on finding ways to include institutions that had so far not been among the principal conveyors of financial flows; and on scaling up resources to enable all

countries to embark on the necessary transformations. Other key areas considered by the Board were climate change, digitalization and gender equity.

39. In his remarks, Mr. Löfven expressed his appreciation for the organizations that had submitted proposals to the Advisory Board through the open consultation process in July and August. Those proposals reflected a shared diagnosis regarding the shortcomings of the existing multilateral system and the need for a shift towards more networked, inclusive and effective multilateralism. The Board was developing its recommendations at a time of deep geopolitical tensions and major upheavals that were affecting all societies and economies. Against the backdrop of the climate and planetary crisis, and precisely when global cooperation was most needed, mistrust between the global North and South and scepticism towards multilateral solutions were growing. Mr. Löfven recalled that the Board's objective was to strengthen the multilateral system with the United Nations at its centre and to produce bold recommendations on global governance reform, addressing threats to global peace and security, the climate and planetary crisis, rising poverty and widening inequalities, including inequalities in the digital sphere. The Board's members were firmly convinced that the pursuit of greater equity and fairness in global decision-making had to be at the heart of its recommendations, which would also emphasize the need for gender equality, the systematic involvement of young people in decision-making, the interests of future generations and the importance of leaving no one behind. In addition to public sector funding, a massive mobilization of private sector investment was required to finance the sustainable development agenda, the climate agenda, and peace and peacebuilding activities, as well as to close the digital divide, achieve gender equality and respond to growing humanitarian needs. In that regard, Mr. Löfven underlined the central role of international financial institutions, but also recognized the need for a reorientation of their mandates to help to steer private and public investment towards shared objectives and globally valued public goods. Consequently, the Board was developing recommendations on how to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in the international financial institutions, and on a reform of the global financial architecture.

40. During the discussion, members shared their views and observations on the current state of multilateralism. It was suggested to clearly define the term "effective multilateralism", as it could have different meanings for different audiences. While members agreed that multilateralism was key to preventing and resolving crises, they also noted that faith in the multilateral system was dwindling. Multilateralism was based on trust, which inevitably suffered whenever commitments were not honoured, as illustrated by the developed countries' failure to mobilize \$100 billion annually to support developing countries with climate action, as they had pledged in 2009. An effective multilateral system needed to be fit to deal with intersecting crises in the future by strengthening countries' resilience in the face of challenges such as extreme weather, desertification, climate change, biodiversity loss, increasing costs of living and a potential global economic recession. Moreover, its focus had to be on the most vulnerable and excluded populations.

41. To restore trust in the United Nations, members argued that it was important to highlight its successes and comparative advantages more effectively. Members also stressed that multilateral organizations and institutions required adequate funding and other resources to carry out their mandates. In view of the budget cuts made over many years, Member States had a responsibility to ensure that the structures of multilateralism were adequately resourced.

42. Reflecting on how to strengthen multilateralism, members identified some key elements for consideration by the Advisory Board. Mindful of past experience, such as that gained during the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals, members emphasized that political impetus from the outset, enthusiasm, hope and

trust among countries were vital for a successful outcome. Multilateralism needed to be based on reflection, science and evidence, and it had to involve listening to and consulting with people – for example, through experts, scientists or think tanks – so as to demonstrate how intergovernmental processes were relevant and responded to people’s aspirations. Members also underscored the importance of enhancing transparency measures as a prerequisite for building trust and confidence. Given that the negotiation of multilateral agreements was a complex task, it might be necessary for countries to advance at different speeds, especially in areas where there were highly polarized views, such as decarbonization, carbon pricing and climate finance.

43. Inclusiveness and engagement were also mentioned as key ingredients in strengthening effective multilateralism. Engaging with audiences from a broader ideological spectrum, including civil society and the private sector, was important. The science-policy interface was considered crucial in terms of enhancing the use of scientific knowledge in decision-making, creating trust based on facts, and producing science-based evidence and advice in support of good governance. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the value of different government departments joining forces, engaging in new partnerships and establishing new forms of collaboration.

44. With regard to recommendations or recommendation areas that the Advisory Board could consider incorporating into its report, it was pointed out that there was a need to enhance international cooperation in addressing transnational organized crime, which was a significant barrier to progress and negatively impacted on peace and security. The question of nuclear governance was also raised, including the importance of non-proliferation, strategic risk reduction and the potential of cyberattacks against critical infrastructure. Interlinkages between different categories of weapons and common security concerns, such as terrorism, transnational crime networks and multisectoral conflicts, were further areas suggested for consideration by the Board. In all cases it was necessary to break down silos in the multilateral system, in particular silos between the peace and security pillar and the development pillar. Other topics that could be addressed in the Board’s recommendations included refugees and internally displaced persons, the role of data in the peace and security pillar (including the use of data to support early warning and conflict analysis), the digital economy, and tensions between food security and green energy.

45. Members expressed their support for the adoption of an inclusive approach to the strengthening of multilateralism, for example by engaging with municipal authorities and local governments, which played an increasingly prominent role in responding to crises and often complemented national frameworks through their policies. Young people were another important target group, and members recommended reflecting on how education systems could help to foster the ability of children, adolescents and young adults to participate in discussions on multilateralism. Members also saw merit in using data as a tool for achieving equity, inclusiveness and trust in support of effective multilateralism. A recurring observation concerned the need to strengthen networked collaboration between the international financial institutions and the United Nations system.

46. Furthermore, members recalled the normative dimension of multilateralism that had enabled great progress in the past – notably by building on a robust set of norms in areas such as tackling discrimination on the grounds of disability and combating racial discrimination – and had thereby contributed to the credibility of multilateralism. Examples and success stories illustrating how effective multilateralism had been achieved or reinvigorated over the past decades included the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the nuclear safeguards activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Generation Equality initiative launched by

the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization.

47. In her closing statement, Ms. Johnson Sirleaf thanked members for their ideas on how to advance towards a better world. She remarked that since the end of the Second World War, the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund had not been able to link up effectively with regional institutions that were closer to the problems in hand. She also argued that a denial of scientific evidence was one of the reasons why the COVID-19 pandemic had lingered for so long. Commenting on how several African countries had experienced coups d'état after decades of democracy, Ms. Johnson Sirleaf reiterated the need for a reform of the Security Council. She noted that countries affected by conflict were not properly represented in the Security Council, and that the political will was lacking to achieve full representation and to bring about a shift from peacekeeping to conflict prevention. The boldness called for by the Secretary-General in the Our Common Agenda report required acknowledging that the structures of all international institutions had to change in order to achieve equity through representation, fairness and collective action in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. Expressing his appreciation for the Committee's input, Mr. Löfven recognized that while there had been some positive developments, the multilateral system had underperformed in areas such as the climate transition and preventing the escalation of conflict. To implement the 2030 Agenda and accelerate progress on climate action, health and digitalization, greater investments were needed from regional development banks, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and the private sector. A first step towards bridging the gap between the global North and South consisted in finally delivering on the pledge of mobilizing \$100 billion a year for climate action, which could become a reality following the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Egypt in November 2022. Mr. Löfven concluded by stressing that building a stronger multilateral system to improve people's lives was a joint task for, and required an inclusive approach by, governments, the private sector and civil society.

49. Summarizing the discussion, Mr. Passarelli noted that the views expressed by HLCP members were aligned with those of the Advisory Board. There was common agreement that multilateralism needed collective investment if it was to survive, as illustrated by the many examples that had been shared during the discussion. He expressed the hope that the Advisory Board would continue to engage with HLCP as it sought to capture best practices for its report, and invited interested United Nations system entities to reach out to the Board to help in elaborating some of the ideas raised during the discussion.

### **III. Progress under the Committee's strategic narrative**

#### **Duties to the future: intergenerational equity**

50. Introducing the second item on the agenda, the Acting Chair recalled that, at its forty-third session, the Committee had approved the recommendations set out in a discussion paper on duties to the future as seen through an intergenerational equity lens and requested the core group on duties to the future to work with the volunteering entities to elaborate a plan to pursue the activities outlined for subsequent consideration by HLCP. The Acting Chair noted that, as part of the implementation of Our Common Agenda, the topic of intergenerational equity was being taken up by Member States in the context of the intergovernmental negotiations on a proposed Declaration on Future Generations, and invited members to share their views on

linkages to that process and to offer broader guidance on setting priorities for the core group's activities. Expressing her appreciation for the work performed by the core group so far, the Acting Chair acknowledged the three co-leads, namely, the Chief of Policy of the UNICEF Office of Global Insight and Policy, Jasmina Byrne, the Director of Programmes of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, Adam Day, and a Legal Officer at UNEP, Soo-Young Hwang, as well as the support of a Policy Specialist on Society and Young People at UNICEF, Tamara Rusinow.

51. On behalf of the co-leads, Ms. Byrne presented an update on the core group's activities, noting that they had been grouped around two principal tasks: (a) fostering a scientifically informed understanding of the impact of present actions across multiple generations; and (b) supporting normative efforts to enshrine a global responsibility towards future generations throughout the United Nations system. Since the Committee's forty-third session, the group had engaged with and contributed to other processes, including the informal working group on leadership dialogue 1 for the international meeting entitled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity" (2 and 3 June 2022), the HLCP core group on progress beyond GDP and the intergovernmental process for a Declaration on Future Generations, through inputs to the elements paper to which Ms. Griffin had referred in her earlier presentation.

52. Ms. Byrne also gave an overview of the planned analytical deliverables, namely, a "Manual on national time transfer accounts: measuring and analysing the gendered economy", the preparation of which was being led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; a paper on age-specific inequalities, looking also at the intergenerational benefits of elements of universal social protection, the work on which was being led by the United Nations Population Fund; and a survey tool being developed by UNEP, with inputs from UNICEF and the Development Coordination Office, to assist in identifying key examples of programmes, projects and other frameworks that advanced the consideration of intergenerational equity in the United Nations system. She reiterated that the core group was made up of dedicated experts who were committed to supporting efforts in that regard.

53. Following the opening presentation, the coordinator of the HLCP Foresight Network, Christin Pfeiffer, Programme Specialist for Futures Literacy, UNESCO, provided an update on the Network's contribution to the workstream on duties to the future. She emphasized that addressing issues related to intergenerational equity presented an important opportunity to demonstrate the power of different methods for imagining the future, which would help individuals, communities and organizations to avoid short-termism and draw inspiration for sustainable, inclusive social action that could lead to better futures. In that regard, UNESCO and the Foresight Network had decided to launch two complementary activities that would be implemented with the participation of the core group on duties to the future: a futures masterclass on intergenerational equity, to be co-led by UNESCO and UNEP, and a project entitled "Futures for intergenerational equity", to be co-led by UNESCO and the United Nations Global Pulse initiative.

54. In the ensuing discussion, members agreed on the desirability of developing shared principles or parameters to underpin the work on intergenerational equity and future generations. Furthermore, members were in favour of exploring how contributions under the workstream on duties to the future could help to create synergies and feed into the preparations for the Summit of the Future, including the Declaration on Future Generations. Given the challenges associated with the preparation of the elements paper for the Declaration through a consultative process co-facilitated by Fiji and the Netherlands, and given also that there had been no request from Member States for United Nations system entities to become involved, it was recommended that HLCP wait for the intergovernmental negotiations to mature

further before seeking to make a contribution from a system-wide perspective. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General intended to issue a policy brief on future generations in early 2023 that would draw on the HLCP core group's work. It was agreed that individual entities should in the meantime consider how to take future generations into account more systematically in their work, including at the country level. Recalling the dialogue under the first agenda item, members reiterated that the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism was interested in incorporating a future generations orientation into its recommendations, and entities were encouraged to share their ideas on the topic for the Board's consideration.

55. With regard to the analytical deliverables being pursued by the core group, members acknowledged the need for the group to prioritize the activities agreed at the Committee's forty-third session. Various United Nations system entities expressed their interest in, or reaffirmed their commitment to, contributing to those deliverables. The representatives of the International Labour Organization and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs signalled their respective entities' interest in becoming involved in the work on age-specific inequalities and universal social protection. The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs also noted that work on the manual on national time transfer accounts was advancing well and was expected to be completed by the end of 2022. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme reiterated her entity's interest in leading the proposed work to explore how intergenerational equity could be included as an indicator in the Human Development Index. The Committee also took note of individual entities' ongoing work related to intergenerational equity, including on intergenerational aspects of fiscal policies, climate change issues and risks, sustainability analysis, and climate and pandemic preparedness.

56. Turning to a consideration of ways to enrich and complement the core group's work, members underscored the need to also take account of human rights, gender equality, labour rights, skills anticipation and jobs for the future. It was observed that intergenerational equity could only be achieved through a comprehensive approach that included peace among its fundamental objectives. Many of the risks facing future generations were perceived as being interrelated and multidimensional – including climate risks and various forms of exclusion, systematic discrimination and marginalization – and could persist over several decades, potentially further entrenching inequalities.

57. The importance of disaggregated data was emphasized in relation to further refining the core group's work. It was recommended that United Nations system entities explore how best to use existing data sources, such as population censuses or household surveys, to make intergenerational comparisons in their research and analysis. To understand intergenerational equity properly, it was also necessary to include the concept of intersectionality, which involved looking at multiple dimensions and their interactions with one another. It was emphasized that there was no future for new generations without a healthy planet, and that intergenerational equity required a comprehensive approach which took into consideration issues such as climate change and biodiversity. In that respect, to advance the principles of intergenerational equity, it was essential to strengthen the capacities of rural populations to conserve biodiversity, protect the quality of biological resources and preserve renewable resources. Looking ahead, the need for implementation and monitoring mechanisms and accountability systems, such as an intergenerational sustainability index, was stressed.

58. Offering suggestions for enriching the core group's work, members underlined the importance of intergenerational forms of labour and the gender dimension. It was pointed out that in preparing the analytical piece on age-specific inequalities and social protection, the drafting group could focus how the work involved in caring for

children and elderly people should be reflected and valued. Intergenerational equity had a strong gender dimension, since considerable investments in the capabilities of future generations occurred outside the framework of markets and public services in the form of unpaid care work for children and families that was mainly performed by women and girls. Members also recognized the crucial role of young people in intergenerational forms of labour, for example in the context of ageing smallholder farming populations, and expressed their support for engaging young people in futures thinking. Since younger generations would be in the workforce longest over the coming decades, the Committee agreed that their views needed to be front and centre in any discussion on intergenerational equity and at the Summit of the Future.

59. Reacting to the Committee's feedback, Ms. Byrne expressed her appreciation of the fact that many United Nations system entities were already focusing on the topic of future generations and intergenerational equity in their work, which she hoped would be captured comprehensively during the stocktaking exercise to be undertaken by the core group. She took note of the Committee's agreement to prioritize the activities outlined in the discussion paper, welcomed entities' recommitment to producing the planned analytical deliverables, and acknowledged the strong interest expressed in contributing to the work on intergenerational benefits of elements of universal social protection and on national time transfer accounts in particular. Ms. Byrne noted that members had advised deferring to a later stage the work on contributions to ongoing intergovernmental processes. In the meantime, the core group would proceed to develop a common, shared understanding of the concept of intergenerational equity, of normative frameworks and of principles that could guide the United Nations system's work. As a parting thought, she underscored the need to pay more attention to the role of young people in the relevant processes, in particular of women and girls, and to leverage youth networks to that end.

60. In concluding the item, the Acting Chair acknowledged the feedback and guidance provided by the Committee and expressed her appreciation for the core group's work.

### **Conclusion**

**61. The Committee requested the core group on duties to the future to continue working with the volunteering entities on a prioritized set of activities, assimilating the guidance received from members, and taking into consideration links with complementary initiatives through HLCP (for example, under the Foresight Network) and elsewhere. The Committee also welcomed the core group's proposal to develop a set of common principles for the United Nations system that would serve as a basis for a shared understanding of the concept of future generations and intergenerational equity.**

### **New global public goods: international data governance**

62. In her introductory remarks, the Acting Chair recalled the support expressed by the Committee at its forty-second session for looking specifically at international data governance from the angle of new global public goods. She also recalled that a concept note outlining the areas of focus for a United Nations system paper on international data governance had been approved by the Committee at its forty-third session. The discussions at the current session had already demonstrated that data cut across many issues on the Committee's agenda, including artificial intelligence and the digital commons. Moreover, such work was relevant to the follow-up to Our Common Agenda, including the proposed Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future. The notion of data and statistics as a global public good was also reflected in the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics, endorsed by CEB in May 2020 ([CEB/2020/1/Add.1](#)). The Acting Chair expressed her

appreciation for the work of the HLCP working group on international data governance, co-led by the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Angela Me, and the Director of Data and Analytics at the World Health Organization, Stephen MacFeely – in particular, for leading the preparation of two papers entitled “Broad arguments supporting the inclusion of data in the Global Digital Compact” and “Broad arguments supporting the inclusion of data in the Summit of the Future”, as well as the drafting of the progress report on the implementation of the System-wide Road Map.

63. In her presentation, Ms. Me thanked the working group’s members for drafting the paper on international data governance following the outline agreed at the Committee’s forty-third session, and for preparing consultations with stakeholders on various relevant aspects, including data as a global public good and principles for data governance. Follow-up virtual meetings of the paper’s drafters were being planned, as was a hybrid meeting to be held in Vienna in December 2022. The discussions had delved deeper into the notion of data as a public good and the implications of that for governments and other stakeholders, including the concept of open data or data commons. Ms. Me noted that the work undertaken for the paper could also inform the development of the Global Digital Compact, especially with regard to specific recommendations on what the United Nations system and Member States could consider. She also pointed out that the transnational aspects of data were linked to the transnational aspects of technology, and that inequalities in access to technologies were therefore reflected in inequalities in data use and access.

64. Building on Ms. Me’s introduction, Mr. MacFeely argued that the work that had gone into the paper on international data governance could inform the Summit of the Future as well. Given the dramatic changes in the data universe over the past 20 years, there was no doubt that data would continue to be ubiquitous in the future and, therefore, data-related topics warranted consideration at the Summit of the Future. Various approaches were proposed, including multistakeholder mechanisms for protection, classifying some data in a category distinct from the traditional economic definition of public goods and strengthening human rights related to data. It was also suggested that the United Nations system could take advantage of various new and up-to-date data sources.

65. With regard to implementation of the System-wide Road Map, Mr. MacFeely provided an update on a number of priority actions, including the updating of the United Nations data portal, the promotion of data literacy, nowcasting and forecasting, working with United Nations country teams, and the integration of geospatial information. He singled out some challenges, for example with regard to different legal interpretations of Creative Commons licences, and the need to expand the training on data literacy that had been developed with the United Nations System Staff College so that it could be delivered as a stand-alone training activity and/or as part of mandatory training for staff.

66. In the ensuing discussion, members strongly supported contributing to the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future from the perspective of international data governance. Members felt that it was important to discuss data as part of the Summit of the Future and to have a longer time frame for shaping the Summit’s agenda on data. It was also suggested that data could be addressed at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023, as a lead-up to the Summit of the Future in 2024.

67. Members acknowledged the interlinkages between data and technology, and were in favour of addressing those in the proposed Global Digital Compact. Engagement with Member States would be key for the inclusion of data issues, as the Global Digital Compact was to be negotiated at the intergovernmental level. The



immense opportunities opened up by digital technologies were acknowledged, as were the pitfalls – such as inequalities, threats to privacy, market concentration, security, artificial intelligence-based discrimination and technology-enabled violence – which were seen as interconnected with data and data governance. It was also pointed out that data had social and economic dimensions. Interlinkages between data and the Global Digital Compact and other tracks of the Summit of the Future were suggested as being worth exploring further. In that respect, it was important to bear in mind that data went beyond the realm of digital technologies.

68. The normative dimension of data was highlighted by members as a key element to be addressed. Calls were made for such work to be guided by existing human rights and ethical frameworks, including by building on the guidance note by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights entitled “A human rights-based approach to data” (2018) and the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2021. Numerous aspects were raised in relation to the normative dimension, including rights to data and information, as well as issues that needed to be considered carefully when developing principles for international data governance. It was emphasized that efforts to establish such principles should be inclusive and involve multiple stakeholders. Equal representation in data, for example in terms of gender balance, was seen as important since data should reflect the make-up of the populations served. The collection of accurate data on criminalized persons or activities posed further challenges with regard to inclusiveness and representativeness.

69. Members drew attention to the potential misuses of data, especially data collected on people in a security context and for surveillance purposes, including the misuse of biometric data and big data. There were also concerns over data and misinformation or disinformation, and the undermining of facts and science. A focus on building trust and inclusion into data systems was important to strengthen confidence in data and to ensure data integrity. The management and control of digital identities was another issue raised, notably the extent to which individuals should be able to access and control digital data about themselves.

70. The scope for data to support sustainable development had been acknowledged by Member States, including in the Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development. There was a need for up-to-date data that offered Member States a useful picture of current progress on sustainable development; such data could be obtained by, for example, drawing on open data sources to a greater extent. The nexus between data on the one hand, and peace and security on the other, was seen as crucial, especially with regard to the use of data for complex analysis, predictive analytics, early warning and strategic foresight. Data in humanitarian situations, including data on refugees and migrants, was another important area, especially since data could be used to improve the assistance provided and target it more effectively.

71. However, it was acknowledged that not all countries had the capacity to produce or access the data that they needed. Members supported the further implementation of the System-wide Road Map, including the provision of additional capacity development support to Member States. Inequalities in access to data were having an increasing impact on sustainable development – a problem that was also linked to the digital divide. Open data, open science, data commons and the treatment of data as a public good were the main solutions proposed to close the data divide and facilitate equitable access to data in support of sustainable development. Data-sharing among United Nations system entities was advocated. It was suggested that the United Nations system could serve as a non-competitive platform for accessing, processing, collecting and aggregating data and supporting the dissemination and interpretation of data.

72. The United Nations had an important role to play in data standards and the classification of data, those two areas being essential in terms of providing a data source that could be genuinely trusted. High-quality and trustworthy data were seen as especially valuable in the current environment. Many questions relating to data governance in government contexts had already been discussed at the Statistical Commission, in line with its expanded mandate to cover statistics and data issues more broadly.

73. It was emphasized that partnerships, notably with the private sector, should be pursued to advance the efforts on data in the framework of the United Nations system. While the volume of data held by the private sector was very large, only a limited amount was actually shared. It would be important to address the confidential treatment of data and to consider providing relevant incentives for data-sharing. There was concern over the fact that much published data did not comply with international data standards. Suggestions were made for an appropriate policy to engage with the private sector on data, including issues pertaining to norms, the use of data and financing.

74. The co-leads, Ms. Me and Mr. MacFeely, thanked members for their contributions and indicated that they would continue working on inputs for the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future. If the future of data was not properly regulated and governed, especially given the speed at which data and technology were developing, a significant price would be paid in terms of both sustainable development and human rights. Consultations with the private sector and civil society were regarded as important. A fundamental link was acknowledged between data and the HLCP work on artificial intelligence, and relevant collaborations were under way.

75. In closing, the Acting Chair expressed her appreciation to members for their inputs on many different data-related aspects, which she hoped would be taken on board by the working group in its activities feeding into the development of the Global Digital Compact and the preparations for the Summit of the Future.

### **Conclusion**

**76. The Committee took note of the two papers entitled “Broad arguments supporting the inclusion of data in the Global Digital Compact” and “Broad arguments supporting the inclusion of data in the Summit of the Future”, and requested the working group on international data governance to incorporate the guidance received from HLCP members into its inputs for the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future.**

**77. The Committee also took note of the progress report on the implementation of the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics.**

### **Networked and inclusive governance: stakeholder engagement**

78. In her opening remarks, the Acting Chair recalled that at the forty-second session of HLCP the decision had been made to analyse and learn from the various approaches to community stakeholder engagement applied by different United Nations system entities. She observed that the Our Common Agenda report contained numerous proposals for how to strengthen networked and inclusive governance, and that the question of enhancing the participation and inclusion of civil society, the private sector, marginalized groups and other agents of change had also been raised in the dialogue with the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism under the first agenda item.

79. The HLCP Secretary, Maaike Jansen, provided a brief overview of the status of the workstream on networked and inclusive governance. She reminded members that

at its forty-second session the Committee had emphasized that the inclusion of a range of stakeholders in intergovernmental bodies was important, and that networked and inclusive governance was a means of advancing global development objectives by harnessing the comparative advantage of allied actors. HLCP workstreams in general operated on a demand-driven basis, and the activities under that workstream sought to create synergies with existing discussions and initiatives, thereby generating added value for the United Nations system. In that regard, it was intended that the workstream would benefit from complementary efforts being undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to analyse civil society engagement in the work of the United Nations. Ms. Jansen highlighted the importance of meaningful stakeholder engagement, which had been a recurring theme in the Committee's discussions at the current session, as a key element in building trust. She concluded by inviting the Committee to reflect on how the workstream on networked and inclusive governance could best provide support to ongoing system-wide efforts and enrich the discussions on other topics on the HLCP agenda.

80. Presenting the work carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Director of the Department's Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, Marion Barthélemy, recalled that the Our Common Agenda report had called for the meaningful and effective inclusion of civil society in the work of United Nations system organizations, based on: (a) trust; (b) inclusion, protection and participation; and (c) measuring and valuing what matters to people and the planet. She also noted that in paragraphs 121 and 122 of the report, the Secretary-General had asked all United Nations system entities to establish a dedicated focal point for civil society and committed himself to regularly mapping and monitoring relationships with civil society across the system to ensure that better engagement was being achieved and sustained. The report also contained a set of recommendations aimed at ensuring that the United Nations was able to build on recent innovations in listening to, consulting and engaging with people around the world. In particular, the Secretary-General had encouraged all parts of the United Nations system to make consultations with people, including women and young people, regular and systematic going forward.

81. Ms. Barthélemy explained that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had prepared and circulated a survey to all United Nations system entities with the aim of mapping the current state of civil society engagement and wider consultations with people across the system, capturing good practices and lessons learned, and identifying gaps in existing mechanisms. The attitude towards civil society participation differed from country to country depending on whether it involved participation in intergovernmental bodies or participation in the United Nations system entities' programming, analysis and country-level work. Moreover, there were different modalities of civil society participation. Ms. Barthélemy pointed out that the survey considered both types of engagement and sought to gather information on best practices and challenges encountered, the different types of civil society stakeholders and the impact of civil society engagement. The findings from the survey, on which the Committee received a preliminary update, would be documented in a report for submission to the Secretary-General, which would include an inventory of good practices, select case studies and a set of recommendations. Ms. Barthélemy suggested finding a way for the Committee to comment on the recommendations and added that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs intended to discuss that with the HLCP core group on networked and inclusive governance.

82. In the discussion that followed, members generally expressed their support for meaningful and effective engagement with civil society, in particular with young people. The discussion focused on how to stimulate and support such engagement. It was pointed out that "civil society" could have different meanings and was often used

as an umbrella term encompassing many diverse actors, including local governments and parliamentarians that did not have a dedicated forum at the United Nations. Members agreed on the need for greater awareness of the variety of stakeholders, that is, to distinguish between different constituencies and different types of engagement. One important distinction was between the engagement of civil society in the work of the United Nations and its engagement in intergovernmental processes.

83. Members provided information about the various degrees of civil society engagement that existed within their entities. Some described civil society engagement as their organization's *raison d'être* or at least as a key element in the organization's history, identity and, in certain cases, mandate. In tripartite organizations, specific civil society actors were an integral part of the organization. In other cases, civil society stakeholders were essential to the functioning of the organization and formed part of steering groups, committees and/or the governance structure, albeit without decision-making powers or voting rights.

84. The Committee recognized the value of open and frank discussions with civil society. Such discussions were a fundamental asset in effective programming and policy development, and crucial to identify local needs and build resilience, for example in development work and the peacebuilding context. Civil society actors were key implementation partners, and in some geographical areas they were indeed the only ones on the ground, especially in conflict-affected areas. Meaningful engagement with civil society was seen as a vital tool to strengthen credibility and promote trust at a time of rising inequalities, polarization, and economic and environmental crises.

85. Reflecting on engagement with civil society organizations, members stressed the need for special protection of civil society representatives, such as human rights defenders and environmental defenders. At the local level, there was unfortunately increasing pressure on fundamental freedoms and the civic space. The need for protection was also highlighted in relation to non-governmental organizations working with the United Nations in efforts to combat sexual exploitation and harassment. The Committee underscored the importance of including marginalized groups, indigenous peoples and local communities. It was proposed to set up a voluntary fund to which Member States and the private sector could contribute with a view to facilitating the participation of representatives of those groups in meetings with Member States.

86. Looking ahead, members agreed on the need to consider working differently from a strategic perspective and to critically assess how the United Nations system was engaging with and listening to civil society. The Committee detected reservations on the part of Member States when it came to including civil society stakeholders in some deliberations and decision-making processes. Another recurring issue in the discussion was the risk that the inclusion and engagement of civil society could be perceived as mere tokenism. Civil society organizations had articulated clear demands for their leadership, voice, agency and expertise to be recognized and taken into account. Members acknowledged that the interaction with civil society had to move from consultation to participation if the engagement was to become meaningful and have an impact in terms of shaping outcomes. Noting the presence of "professional" civil society representatives at the session, the Committee discussed how to enhance an organization's civil society engagement to reach groups that it had not worked with before. The question of how to engage with non-traditional stakeholders and social movements as opposed to formal non-governmental structures was also raised.

87. Seeking to enrich and contribute to the work undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to identify best practices related to civil society engagement in the work of the United Nations, members shared examples from their

own entities that involved various stakeholders, including the Spotlight Initiative, the Stockholm+50 process, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme, the SparkBlue online community engagement platform, the Peacebuilding Fund established by the Secretary-General, and the high-level meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in April 2022.

88. Responding to the various points raised, Ms. Barthélemy noted the broad agreement on the importance of civil society engagement and participation, and summarized the different degrees and types of engagement with the United Nations system, ranging from consultation to participation in the drawing up of strategic plans. There were still challenges with regard to engaging civil society organizations in decision-making processes. Ms. Barthélemy recognized that the term “civil society” could cover a broad range of actors, including parliamentarians and local governments, as well as representatives of women’s groups, young people and trade unions. She acknowledged that some entities felt it was necessary to review the working methods of certain organizations and intergovernmental bodies. From the discussion she concluded that it would be useful to convene a “people’s summit” ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to ensure that the level of stakeholder engagement at that event was high.

89. In concluding the item, the Acting Chair thanked members for their guidance on networked and inclusive governance and emphasized that tackling the issues involved was both an individual and a collective endeavour.

### **Conclusion**

90. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the project of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on mapping existing mechanisms for civil society engagement in the United Nations system, which was a valuable input to the HLCP workstream on networked and inclusive governance. The Committee agreed that once the full findings from the survey on civil society engagement were available, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should work together with the HLCP core group to build on and enrich the analysis that the group was conducting on the variety of community stakeholder engagement and participatory approaches used in different entities across the entire United Nations system.**

## **IV. Ethics of artificial intelligence**

91. The Acting Chair opened the discussion recalling the contribution made by HLCP to the UNESCO ad hoc expert group tasked with preparing the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence that was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021. She expressed her appreciation for the substantive contributions from members, which had strengthened that instrument and enabled it to address several difficult aspects. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence had been guided by the Recommendation when drawing up the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system, which provided a robust foundation for entities to govern the use of artificial intelligence throughout the life cycle of an artificial intelligence system in a way that was ethical and grounded in human rights. The principles had been approved by HLCP at its intersessional meeting in July 2022 and subsequently endorsed by CEB in September 2022. The Acting Chair emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles within the United Nations system while advocating implementation of the Recommendation by Member States. In addition, the work within HLCP on the ethics

of artificial intelligence was feeding into the upcoming discussion at the second regular session of CEB of 2022 on reclaiming the digital commons.

92. In her presentation, a United Nations Coordination Officer at UNESCO and one of the co-leads of the Inter-Agency Working Group, Clare Stark, introduced the principles as a framework for the ethical use of artificial intelligence that was intended to guide decisions by United Nations system entities on the development, design, deployment and operation of artificial intelligence systems. The principles were a tool for building trust, mitigating risks and working towards human-centred ethical artificial intelligence that was firmly anchored in human rights. In moving forward, it was important to implement the principles within individual United Nations system entities and to draw attention to them as appropriate. Such efforts were linked to the discussions on data governance held in HLCP, as well as in the High-level Committee on Management, including the discussions feeding into the personal data protection and privacy principles. The Inter-Agency Working Group served as a collaborative platform for sharing experience in the development of policies and tools to implement the principles. Assessing artificial intelligence-related risks and auditing artificial intelligence were two other ways in which entities could implement the principles. UNESCO had been developing an ethical assessment framework in support of the Recommendation, which could potentially be applied to the United Nations system in general. Ms. Stark noted that there had been progress on the development of algorithms to detect bias and discrimination within the research community that should be taken into account as well. The exploration of use cases, awareness-raising and capacity-building were further areas of work relevant to advancing implementation of the principles. It was also noted that the forthcoming guidance on human rights due diligence on technology was linked to the Inter-Agency Working Group's current work.

93. The Representative of the International Telecommunication Union to the United Nations in New York, Ursula Wynhoven, delivering remarks on behalf of the other co-lead of the Inter-Agency Working Group, Preetam Maloor, updated members on the Working Group's ongoing efforts to develop guidelines on the procurement of artificial intelligence systems based on guidance from HLCP at its fortieth session. The principles were considered by the Working Group to be critical in informing its work on procurement guidelines. The Working Group had collaborated with experts from the World Economic Forum and continued to engage with the Procurement Network under the High-level Committee on Management to advance the development of the guidelines.

94. In the ensuing discussion, members reiterated their strong support for the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system. Given that some of those instruments' objectives were rather ambitious, it was recommended to prioritize some key actions for implementation. Members supported the development of policies to implement the principles and the sharing of experiences through the Inter-Agency Working Group to facilitate policy coherence. Members also suggested that a monitoring and evaluation mechanism would be beneficial to the implementation of the principles.

95. Members acknowledged that artificial intelligence was already being used in a wide range of fields, including education, business, health, migration, procurement and recruitment, as well as in conflict and security contexts. Attention was drawn to the impacts of artificial intelligence on labour markets, notably through the platform economy. Members emphasized that it was important to take these different uses and contexts into consideration. The development of specific use cases for artificial intelligence with a focus on its ethical use was supported. Additional use cases were suggested, such as the potential use of artificial intelligence in nuclear safeguards

verification. As far as the use of artificial intelligence was concerned, members reiterated the importance of an ethical approach, which included the promotion of gender equality, avoidance of bias and protection of the human rights of the most vulnerable.

96. Beyond the development of a specific policy on artificial intelligence, integration of the principles into the programmatic work of entities was recommended by members. They also underlined the importance of incorporating ethics into the policy advisory services and support provided to Member States. An important matter for consideration was the type of policies required to facilitate fair, transparent, accountable and trustworthy artificial intelligence, together with approaches or governance models at the national and regional levels that could effectively mitigate risks. It was mentioned that Member States were in the process of negotiating a convention on cybercrime.

97. Members also referred to the risk posed by the widening artificial intelligence divide, where countries of the global South had limited access to such technology and inadequate capacities to regulate its quality and promote its ethical use while at the same time harnessing artificial intelligence for innovation and growth. It was suggested that the United Nations system could help to strengthen institutions at the national level so that they would be able to create an appropriate governance framework and leverage artificial intelligence solutions, including in government operations, while ensuring that such technology was used ethically, that it was unbiased and that human rights were protected.

98. In order for the United Nations system to be able to support Member States effectively, members advocated following the United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence. It was argued that the data-related capacity of the United Nations system should be employed to that end as well. Members supported building the capacity of United Nations system entities, especially of smaller entities, so that they were able to implement the principles and mitigate the risks associated with artificial intelligence. One suggestion was to raise awareness of the principles and to train staff members in the ethics of artificial intelligence.

99. Managing the risks of artificial intelligence was seen as an important but difficult task. It was suggested to develop methodologies for the assessment of upstream and downstream risks. UNESCO itself had been given a mandate by Member States to develop a methodology for assessing the ethical impact of artificial intelligence technologies. Members also shared information on other efforts under way to provide guidance on risk assessment. A draft of the aforementioned guidance on human rights due diligence on technology was expected to be finalized in the coming months and subsequently submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

100. Many members emphasized the strong interlinkages between the workstream on the ethics of artificial intelligence and that dealing with data governance, including such areas as privacy and data protection that were covered by the principles. The Statistical Commission had a committee of experts on big data that was developing guidance on the use of privacy-enhancing technologies for access to and sharing of data. Furthermore, it was suggested that the work on the ethics of artificial intelligence could be linked to the proposed Global Digital Compact as well as to the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030 as a way of strengthening policy coherence across different areas. Partnerships between entities within the United Nations system were encouraged, as were partnerships with external stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and academia, including through the Rome Call for Artificial Intelligence Ethics.

101. Responding on behalf of the co-leads of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, Ms. Stark acknowledged the many issues connected to the topic and pointed to the importance of setting priorities. The first step was for entities to translate the principles into internal policies. The United Nations Secretariat had already initiated that process, though it would take some time to complete. Monitoring and accountability were important in that respect, as were impact assessments, which provided decision-makers with the tools to assess the use of artificial intelligence in relation to a broad range of issues. It was also important to educate staff and policymakers on artificial intelligence, making use of existing platforms where possible. Given the overlaps between data-related matters, artificial intelligence and other technologies, it was suggested that there should be stronger collaboration between the working groups on artificial intelligence and international data governance, not least in providing inputs for the Global Digital Compact. Continued collaboration to address human rights was also proposed, as was the exploration of linkages to environmental sustainability issues. As for establishing partnerships with stakeholders, the Inter-Agency Working Group had already made progress in its efforts to that end and would continue pursuing such partnerships.

102. In summing up the discussion, the Acting Chair thanked all members for their inputs and their commitment to implementing the principles within the United Nations system. The Inter-Agency Working Group was a valuable space for facilitating the exchange of information and collaboration on policies, standards, assessments, training and awareness-raising. It was important to have policy coherence in the implementation of the principles across the system, particularly in the priority areas identified in the discussion. The Acting Chair acknowledged the importance of ensuring that artificial intelligence and other technologies were inclusive and diverse, did not contribute to inequalities, and protected human rights, human dignity and the environment. There was concern that such technologies were transforming the world in various ways that reproduced existing inequalities, including gender inequality – a development that warranted more extensive discussion.

### **Conclusion**

**103. The Committee encouraged United Nations system entities to implement the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system in their day-to-day operations.**

**104. The Committee requested the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence to continue to provide a platform where entities could exchange information and collaborate on policies, standards, assessments, training, awareness-raising and other activities to promote policy coherence in the implementation of the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system, in particular the priority areas identified in the discussion.**

## **V. Sustainable urban development**

105. The Acting Chair introduced the item by noting that HLCP had a long history of bringing the United Nations system entities together to work on the topic of sustainable urban development. A notable example was the provision of joint input to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016. Subsequently, the General Assembly had requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to lead a collaborative process aimed at developing a system-wide strategy in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the 2030



Agenda. The strategy drawn up by HLCP had been endorsed by CEB in May 2019. In April 2022, the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General had taken stock of efforts by the United Nations to support countries with the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and called upon UN-Habitat to engage with other entities through HLCP and to lead an in-depth analysis of how the joint work of the United Nations system could better support countries in achieving more rapid progress.

106. Accordingly, the Director of the New York Office of UN-Habitat, Christopher Williams, presented a progress report on the status of implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development that had been prepared to inform the Committee's deliberations on the subject. A series of intergovernmental meetings on the New Urban Agenda had taken place earlier in 2022, convened first by the Economic and Social Council and then by the General Assembly. Following those meetings, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs had suggested a review of the system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization, especially bearing in mind that 70 per cent of the world's population were projected to live in cities within 25 years. Mr. Williams emphasized that organizations would not be able to fulfil their mandates without incorporating an urban dimension into their work. In that regard, he pointed out that, over the past three years, most United Nations system entities had begun to address sustainable urbanization, albeit at different levels, ranging from entire urban strategies to the appointment of focal points on urban development.

107. Much work had been carried out at the global level, including through mechanisms such as the United Nations Task Force on the Future of Cities and the Local2030 Coalition for the Decade of Action. Moreover, an Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments had been established, as recommended by the Secretary-General in the Our Common Agenda report. Although progress had been made through the regional collaborative platforms and the regional forums on sustainable development, more could be done to strengthen the urban development framework at that level. Turning to the national level, Mr. Williams reported that common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks included an urban dimension, but urbanization-related issues were not addressed systematically through dedicated tools, policies and strategies. To remedy that, work was under way with the support of 29 resident coordinators, the Development Coordination Office and UN-Habitat to ensure that sustainable urban development was used as an "implementation vehicle" by United Nations country teams as they supported countries in achieving the objectives of the Cooperation Frameworks with regard to reducing poverty and inequality, transforming economies, advancing climate action, and/or enhancing crisis response and recovery.

108. Referring to the challenges identified in the progress report, Mr. Williams pointed to some gaps in understanding and communication problems regarding urban development issues. One conceptual area that warranted policy work was the importance of sustainable urbanization for agriculture and the environment, as well as in relation to such fundamental human rights as the right to adequate housing, the right to public health and the right to digital access. He also described challenges in the functional organization of work on sustainable urban development.

109. In response to all those challenges, the report offered the following recommendations for consideration by HLCP: continued active contribution by the United Nations system to the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments; increased engagement by the United Nations system in the 2023 roll-out of the Local2030 Coalition for the Decade of Action; a concerted effort by the United Nations system to contribute to the regional forums on sustainable development, thereby also providing inputs to the 2023 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

active participation by the United Nations system in efforts to implement the system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development at the national level, with the support of the initiative on joint urban programming launched by the Development Coordination Office and UN-Habitat; and the development of a policy paper (or addendum to the system-wide strategy), under the aegis of HLCP and led by UN-Habitat with interested HLCP member organizations, to deepen understanding of the importance of sustainable urbanization for rural livelihoods, agricultural development and the future of the planetary ecosystem, as well as in relation to such human rights as adequate housing, public health and digital access.

110. In the subsequent discussion, members welcomed the progress report and its specific recommendations, and expressed their interest in contributing to the development of the proposed policy paper on the importance of sustainable urbanization for rural livelihoods, agricultural development and the future of the planetary ecosystem. Members emphasized the need for sustainable and inclusive urban food systems, and pointed out that the transformation of such systems was key to implementing the New Urban Agenda. With regard to the perception that urbanization was a threat to the environment, it was stressed that well-planned cities made a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and the reduction of resource usage. Since urbanization was one of the most significant megatrends shaping the world, the topic clearly merited attention at the Summit of the Future.

111. Members underscored the importance of dialogue and cooperation at the global, regional and national levels to ensure that a comprehensive and coherent approach to urbanization was followed. They reiterated the importance of integrating an urban perspective not only into the Cooperation Frameworks but also into strategies to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Local action was fundamental to achieving the Goals and, in that respect, resident coordinators and country teams were key implementation actors at the national level.

112. Members highlighted their organizations' efforts to develop and update mandate-specific urban policies. They also drew attention to relevant initiatives pursuing the targets of the New Urban Agenda, including the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative and the Fast-Track Cities initiative. Examples of country-level programming were shared, along with expressions of interest in further collaboration on joint programming.

113. The nexus between migration and sustainable urbanization was raised repeatedly throughout the discussion. Migration was expected to account for more than half of urban growth in the coming decades, which entailed both risks and opportunities. Members drew attention to the linkages between urbanization and the challenges of hosting large groups of displaced people, citing recent efforts to transform refugee camps into settlements or to establish settlements that were more sustainable than in the past. With more refugees living in urban settlements, it was important to give them a voice in urban planning. Moreover, there was a connection between the aspirations of young people and growing migration to urban areas. Some members asked about lessons learned from the design of urban policies taking into account the experience of and realities faced by disadvantaged groups, including with regard to participation, protection of their rights and informal settlements.

114. Reacting to the discussion, Mr. Williams expressed his appreciation for the support shown by members for the progress report and thanked them for their recommendations. He confirmed that UN-Habitat would pursue them accordingly and welcomed any further updates on ongoing initiatives to support sustainable urbanization. It was important to promote collaboration at the country level and to find creative and flexible ways of integrating urban issues that would help United Nations country teams to achieve the planned outcomes.

115. In concluding the item, the Acting Chair noted the broad support voiced by members for the analysis and proposals aimed at enhancing the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy to support the New Urban Agenda. She also noted the insights that they had shared on how their organizations could contribute to sustainable urbanization.

#### **Conclusion**

**116. The Committee took note of the progress report on the status of implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and approved the proposed recommendations on how the joint work of the United Nations system could more effectively support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.**

## **VI. Summary of information items**

117. Further to the electronic review and endorsement of progress reports in advance of the session, the Committee took note of the first progress report on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, submitted to HLCP by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), in which CEB and HLCP had been invited to support the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis.

118. The Committee also took note of the progress reports on the work carried out by UN-Water and UN-Energy, submitted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which served as their secretariat; and the progress report on the work carried out by UN-Oceans, submitted by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in the Office of Legal Affairs.

#### **Conclusion**

**119. The Committee took note of the progress report on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, as well as the progress reports on the work of UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans.**

## **VII. Dates and location of the forty-fifth session of the Committee**

120. The Chair proposed the dates of 22 and 23 March 2023 for the forty-fifth session of the Committee, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

#### **Conclusion**

**121. The Committee approved 22 and 23 March 2023 as the dates of its forty-fifth session, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.**

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Reflection on the Committee's contribution to the implementation of processes under Our Common Agenda in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Progress under the Committee's strategic narrative.
3. Ethics of artificial intelligence.
4. Sustainable urban development.
5. Summary of information items.
6. Dates and location of the forty-fifth session of the Committee.

## Annex II

### List of participants

**Chair:** Inger Andersen (United Nations Environment Programme)

**Acting Chair:** Gabriela Ramos (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

**Secretary:** Maaïke Jansen (secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination)

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
United Nations	
Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Michèle Griffin (presenter)
Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Sustainable Development Unit	Michelle Gyles-McDonnough
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Marion Barthélemy
Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Peacebuilding Support Office	Awa Dabo
Office for Disarmament Affairs	Gizem Sucuoglu
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Marcella Favretto
Office of Counter-Terrorism	Tamara Anderson
Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology	Yu Ping Chan
International Labour Organization	Sukti Dasgupta
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Beth Crawford
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Jean-Yves Le Saux Clare Stark (co-lead, artificial intelligence) Christin Pfeiffer (coordinator, HLCP Foresight Network) Lily Neyestani-Hailu (presenter)
World Health Organization	Stephen MacFeely (co-lead, international data governance)
World Bank Group	Farhad Peikar
International Monetary Fund	Robert Powell
International Telecommunication Union	Ursula Wynhoven
International Maritime Organization	Azara Al-Hassan Prempeh

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
World Intellectual Property Organization	Edward Kwakwa
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Ron Hartman
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Natascha Weisert
World Tourism Organization	Zoritsa Urosevic
International Atomic Energy Agency	Nuno Luzio
World Trade Organization	Said El Hachimi
International Organization for Migration	Ugochi Daniels
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Lisa Borgatti Anu Peltola (co-lead, beyond GDP)
United Nations Development Programme	Francine Pickup
United Nations Environment Programme	Isabella Marras
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Raouf Mazou
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Gavin Roy
United Nations Children's Fund	Sanjay Wijesekera (presenter) Jasmina Byrne (co-lead, duties to the future)
United Nations Population Fund	Diene Keita
World Food Programme	Valerie Guarnieri
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Fedor Klimchuk Angela Me (co-lead, international data governance)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	Christopher Williams
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	Sarah Hendriks
United Nations Office for Project Services	Honoré Dainhi
United Nations University	David Passarelli Adam Day (co-lead, duties to the future)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Eamonn Murphy
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Daniele Violetti

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<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization	Melissa Buerbaumer
International Trade Centre	Matthew Wilson
Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination	Remo Lalli
	Cheryl Stafford
	Li Zhou
	Florian Wintermeyer
	Simon Vandenbroucke
	Marta Lorenzo Fernandez

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