



United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

**Sixty-fourth session
(13 May–14 June 2024)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 1 April 2024 and its substantive session from 13 May to 14 June 2024 at Headquarters. It held 17 formal meetings and numerous informal and “informal informal” consultations, as well as briefings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the sixty-fourth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for 2025;
 - (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) United Nations system support for Agenda 2063.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-fourth session.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 1 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat ([E/AC.51/2024/L.2](#)), submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#), in which it was stated that there were no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit available for consideration at its sixty-fourth session.

Programme of work

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 May, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda ([E/AC.51/2024/1](#)) and the revised note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation ([E/AC.51/2024/L.1/Rev.1](#)) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its programme of work with the understanding that adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session to take into account the pace of discussions.

6. Informal briefings were given by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters; by the Senior Finance and Budget Officer, Business Partner Service, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on logistical matters; by the Director, Inspection and Evaluation Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services, on evaluation issues; by the Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on

the proposed programme budget for 2025; and by the Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on the revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 1 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Sarah Safyn Fyneah (Liberia) as Chair and Rouven Klein (Germany) and Jesús Velázquez Castillo (Mexico) as Vice-Chairs for the sixty-fourth session.

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Alicja Guskowska (Poland) as Vice-Chair and Noel M. Novicio (Philippines) as Rapporteur for the session.

9. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the sixty-fourth session of the Committee were:

Chair:

Sarah Safyn Fyneah (Liberia)

Vice-Chairs:

Alicja Guskowska (Poland)

Rouven Klein (Germany)

Jesús Velázquez Castillo (Mexico)

Rapporteur:

Noel M. Novicio (Philippines)

C. Attendance

10. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

Argentina	Germany
Armenia	India
Belgium	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Botswana	Israel
Brazil	Italy
Bulgaria	Japan
Cameroon	Kenya
Chile	Liberia
China	Mexico
Costa Rica	Morocco
Côte d'Ivoire	Pakistan
France	Paraguay

Philippines	South Africa
Poland	Tunisia
Republic of Korea	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Russian Federation	United States of America
Rwanda	Uruguay

11. The following States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Switzerland	European Union
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D. Documentation

12. The list of documents before the Committee at its sixty-fourth session is set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

13. At its 17th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee had before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth session ([E/AC.51/2024/L.3](#)). At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth session and authorized the Secretary to complete it, taking into consideration resolutions and decisions as might be adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its management segment, to be held in July 2024, and by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

14. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2024/L.4](#) and addenda). The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to document [E/AC.51/2024/7](#), containing a statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

15. Before the adoption of the draft report, the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division made a statement on document [E/AC.51/2024/7](#) and on the programme budget implications in connection with the recommendations for programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which had been circulated to the Committee. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report.

16. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Mexico, China, Costa Rica, Belgium, Poland, the Russian Federation, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brazil, Uruguay, Rwanda, Bulgaria, Japan, Italy, Cameroon, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Liberia, South Africa, Botswana and Kenya. The representatives of the United States, Belgium, Poland, France, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Italy and Germany disassociated themselves, for procedural reasons, from the consensus on programme 7, Economic and social affairs, specifically as it related to the insertion of a new paragraph 9.85 (k), and requested that it be reflected in the report.

Chapter II

Programme questions

A. Proposed programme budget for 2025

Programme 1

General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

17. At its 16th meeting, on 24 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 2)).

Discussion

18. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the crucial work of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, which continued to successfully carry out the tasks entrusted to it to ensure the sustainable functioning of the United Nations. Gratitude was expressed to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and his whole team for their efforts to make the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and all subsidiary organs and subcommittees, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, work. It was mentioned that the Department provided essential facilitation for all political processes, assistance in the revitalization efforts of the Assembly and other United Nations bodies, substantive and technical secretariat support to the Committee on Conferences and high-quality conference servicing support, including multilingual meeting and documentation services, to all intergovernmental and expert bodies meeting at Headquarters and at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, as well as protocol services for the United Nations leadership. The Department's vital role in servicing the needs of Member States and facilitating the technological and logistical foundations for the intergovernmental processes across the United Nations system was noted, and its actions to strengthen and increase inclusion and collaboration within the Organization were commended. It was noted that, as the department with the largest number of staff, it utilized its resources effectively to provide high-quality conference and documentation services, even in a severe liquidity crisis. The hard work of all language staff was appreciated. A delegation said that it counted on the Department to continue to provide high-quality translation and interpretation services to Member States and to strive to provide even better quality translation and interpretation services. Support was expressed for the Department's strategy for 2025 to continue to centrally coordinate evaluation activities and risk management, including business continuity within existing mandates, and provide high-quality and reliable data to facilitate informed managerial decision-making and performance monitoring.

19. A delegation commented that the Department's programme plan was very well drafted, and said that, despite the length of the report, which was understandable given the size of the Department, the report was easy to navigate and very objective. Regarding the timely submission of documents, appreciation was conveyed as all documents had been submitted before the start of the Committee's session, with the Department congratulated for that achievement. Appreciation was also expressed for accommodating the request for a bigger conference room for the Committee to facilitate negotiations.

20. On multilingualism, one of the fundamental and core values of the United Nations, the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General to coordinate its implementation within the Secretariat, as well as to promote such efforts across the United Nations system, were acknowledged and appreciated. A delegation said that it had consistently advocated the strengthening of the principle of multilingualism and always paid special attention to the need to maintain parity between the six official languages of the Organization. Another delegation, whose language was one of the official languages, said that the language had played a key role at the United Nations, promoting understanding and cooperation among nations. The same delegation said that its language and culture emphasized harmony between humanity and nature, valued innovation and flexibility, and contributed valuable wisdom to the work of the United Nations, making important contributions to global cultural heritage. The Department was commended for its efforts to promote the equal use of the official languages.

21. Expressing support for the proposed programme plan for 2025, a delegation welcomed the strategy of continuous modernization and improvement in all areas, including the active use of technology and innovation to further optimize the provision of timely, cost-effective and sustainable conference services. The use of innovative practices, including digital technologies and artificial intelligence, to facilitate meetings and conferences was commended, and the Department was encouraged to further those efforts and adapt delivery in response to the proliferation of new technologies and modern working practices. The Department was also encouraged to continue to implement strategic priorities in areas such as the digital transformation of United Nations conference services, to use technologies to create and support data assets and digital commons as a global public good, and to boost partnerships and maintain business readiness through focused risk management. The emphasis on minimizing the environmental impact of the services provided by the Department, and the efforts undertaken in that regard, were appreciated. Delegations requested additional information regarding the use of digital technologies and innovative solutions to address future shocks and ensure the business continuity of the United Nations, given the lessons learned from the challenges arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the liquidity crisis.

22. A delegation expressed its strong support for the Department's commitment, as noted in paragraph 2.63, to maintaining the availability of conferencing tools and solutions to the benefit of organizers should a business continuity requirement arise. It was stated that virtual and hybrid participation had delivered clear benefits for the work of the United Nations, particularly by increasing the inclusion of small delegations, especially small island developing States and least developed countries, as well as civil society and other stakeholders, by reducing the barriers to participation in both formal and informal meetings.

23. In that regard, noting recent renewed discussion on a return to remote meetings, for example Human Rights Council decision 55/116 on remote participation modalities for hybrid meetings of the Council, a delegation indicated that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/262](#), adopted on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the Secretariat was required to have a separate mandate to hold intergovernmental meetings in a virtual or hybrid format. As such a mandate had never been given by Member States, the delegation was pleased to note that, on that issue, the Department continued to act in strict accordance with Member States' decisions. Noting that the holding of meetings remotely had been a temporary measure when COVID-19 constraints had prevented face-to-face meetings and that the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared an end to COVID-19 as a global public health emergency, thus ending the business continuity measure in the Secretariat, the delegation was of the view that those ideas had long since lost their relevance.

24. A delegation took note of the holistic approach of the Department to recruitment and succession planning efforts, including its assessment of changing technological developments, and expressed the view that such efforts would make a solid contribution to effective service delivery and mitigation of risks to business continuity, both at Headquarters and at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

25. Regarding the outreach programmes to universities, additional information was sought on the status of those programmes given the liquidity situation. Delegations asked how the universities were chosen and whether the programmes had been successful in attracting more staff, especially taking into account retirements and the rejuvenation of United Nations staff.

26. On enabling the harmonization of legal terminology across duty stations, the Department was commended for the upgrade of the UNTERM portal and the creation and updating of 1,984 legal records in UNTERM during the year.

27. Expressing strong appreciation for the important work of the Department, delegations conveyed their support for the programme plan for programme 1 for 2025, including the Department's strategy of continuous modernization and improvement in all areas in order to provide high-quality and timely conference services as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, optimize the utilization of internal and external language capacities and increase the efficiency of its services through the deployment of modern technologies. Delegations asked what guidance or help would be needed from the Committee in order for the Department to carry out its work in 2025.

Conclusions and recommendations

28. **The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in managing and supporting United Nations conferences, meetings and deliberations to enable the effective implementation of United Nations mandates, programmes and operations.**

29. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2025.**

Programme 2 Political affairs

30. At its 11th meeting, on 20 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

31. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in support of United Nations efforts at the global level in preventing and resolving conflicts, providing electoral assistance, peacemaking, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for and recognized the contributions made by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Office of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the

Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism in support of the work of the peace and security pillar.

32. Delegations welcomed the presentation of a comprehensive programme plan and the diverse subprogrammes, which made it possible to understand the complementarity of the results.

33. A delegation expressed the view that, given the persistent and emerging challenges to global peace and various long-standing international disputes that were pending resolution, it was important for the United Nations to further enhance efforts in the areas of prevention management and durable resolution of conflicts. Another delegation said that the most effective way to achieve and sustain peace was through political engagement and by addressing the root causes of conflict, including development issues such as poverty and social inequality.

34. A delegation expressed its strong commitment to the advancement of the prevention agenda in the United Nations and underlined that fostering international cooperation for the prevention of mass atrocities and further developing national and international early warning mechanisms were important priorities. The delegation reiterated the need to ensure coherence, synergy and coordination in the work of the Organization in linking the security, humanitarian and development efforts of the United Nations system with those of other international and regional actors. The delegation sought clarification regarding the mechanisms used by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to ensure independent and accurate monitoring and proper assessment of the security situation in conflict areas.

35. Another delegation underlined the efforts it had made to address security issues and promote world peace, including through the implementation of the Global Security Initiative, which was intended to uphold principles and pursue justice, address difficult issues, and promote synergy and cooperation. The Initiative had been welcomed and supported by over 100 countries, as well as international and regional organizations, and had given impetus to concerted efforts to maintain world peace. The delegation called upon the international community to enhance consensus on safeguarding common security, to promote peaceful settlement of disputes, to strengthen results-oriented action for more practical cooperation in support of international security, and to explore new approaches to improve the global security governance system. The delegation expressed its readiness to work with all parties to ensure the sound implementation of the Initiative and promote a more peaceful world, through the pursuance of common security, upholding the principles of openness and inclusiveness, and prioritizing practical actions.

36. A delegation noted that the proposed programme plan for 2024 had included a section on special political missions and asked why such a section had not been included in the 2025 proposed programme plan. The same delegation recalled General Assembly resolution [77/278](#), in which the Assembly had widened the posts subject to the desirable ranges system to all posts funded by the regular budget at the Professional and higher categories, including in special political missions, and enquired about how that resolution had changed recruitment in special political missions.

37. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with financial and human resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, a delegation expressed its strong support for optimal resources for the areas falling in the domain of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

38. Several delegations expressed their support for equitable geographical representation and requested the senior management of the Department and the offices under programme 2 to enhance inclusivity and diversity in the composition of their staff. A delegation called on the Department and the offices to consider taking concrete, prompt and practical measures to increase the proportion of staff from developing countries, in particular from unrepresented and underrepresented countries, so as to better fulfil their mandates and facilitate their work.

39. With respect to the strategy of the Department, several delegations noted the reference to the implementation of comprehensive regional strategies that addressed cross-boundary issues (para. 3.3) and requested further information in that regard.

40. It was noted that, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Department had been strengthening its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in the area of peace and security. A delegation took note of the Department's intention to continue to strengthen partnerships with regional and other organizations in the field of peace and security (para. 3.6), as well as the reference to building the capacity of regional and subregional organizations (para. 3.17 (c) (v)). In that connection, the delegation referred to the inaugural annual joint consultative meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Mediation and Security Council of the Economic Community of West African States held on 24 April 2024 and recommended that the United Nations support such regional and subregional efforts, adding that it would welcome further comments by the Secretariat on how such initiatives could be supported by the programme.

41. With reference to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, delegations noted their commitment to conflict prevention and expressed their strong support for United Nations efforts to improve the capacity and capability of Member States and regional organizations to identify, prevent and address conflict situations. The Department was encouraged to place greater emphasis on those critical tasks, in particular prevention efforts. With reference to the strategy section of the subprogramme, a delegation welcomed the references to operationalizing the women and peace and security and the youth and peace and security agendas. The delegation expressed the view that such activities should be inclusive of the children and armed conflict agenda, given the importance of protecting and empowering children affected by conflict.

42. A delegation expressed its support for the New Agenda for Peace and welcomed efforts to promote better use of diplomatic instruments to prevent conflict. The delegation encouraged the Department to strengthen its work relating to early anticipation and use politically informed and multidisciplinary approaches to address the causes of conflict, build resilience and seek to avert the triggers that escalated early warnings into violence. The Department was requested to provide further information on what more it could do to identify, consider and engage on early underlying drivers of conflict, such as climate change, economic stress and enduring inequalities.

43. Another delegation observed that the programme was one of the rare ones to include a reference to the Summit of the Future, which had not yet taken place. The delegation acknowledged that the reference to the Summit was understandable given the reference in the programme plan to the New Agenda for Peace, which was part of the discussions of the Summit. The delegation sought clarification regarding how the outcome of the Summit would affect the programme and the work of the Committee in terms of programming. The delegation also asked how the Committee would be in a position to take into account decisions for 2025 arising from the Summit, since the following year, the Committee would be reviewing the proposed programme plan for 2026.

44. The subprogramme's work in contributing to the development of regional strategies, in partnership with relevant Member States and special political missions, was welcomed. With reference to result 2, Member States have access to broadened and strengthened political analysis to inform the prevention, management and resolution of armed conflicts, a delegation welcomed the Department's efforts to provide more comprehensive analysis in its reports to the General Assembly, including on issues of socioeconomic development, gender equality and youth engagement.

45. A delegation reiterated its support for the activities of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with financial and human resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, a delegation stressed the need to equip the Office with the necessary human and financial resources in order for it to properly deliver on its early warning and prevention mandate. The delegation emphasized that it was particularly important to strengthen the capacities of the Office to address hate speech, with a view to improving coordination in the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech by the Office. The delegation stressed the importance of ensuring the independence and integrity of the Office to ensure the proper delivery of its prevention mandate. That independence should be reflected in the organizational structure of the Secretariat. In that context, the delegation sought further information on the mandate and the linkage between the Department and the Office. The delegation also sought information about the recruitment criteria for the staff of the Office.

46. With respect to subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, a delegation called for a more rigorous results-oriented assessment of the electoral assistance benchmarks, rather than a count of technical assistance provided to Member States. The regional training opportunities provided under the subprogramme for electoral officials were welcomed. A delegation noted that participation in such training sessions had increased steadily since 2021, as reflected in figure 3.III. With respect to result 3, increased representation of women in electoral and political processes, a delegation noted that women remained underrepresented in electoral and political processes and encouraged the Department to continue to promote the participation of women in electoral and political processes at the national and regional levels.

47. With respect to subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, delegations expressed their appreciation for the subprogramme's continued assistance to facilitate the efficient functioning of the Security Council. It was noted that the work of the subprogramme benefited both Council members and the wider United Nations. A delegation welcomed the continued focus on enhancing access to information and the provision of training on Council procedures, which was essential for facilitating the work of the Council.

48. With regard to programme performance in 2023, efforts to expand digital communication tools, as referred to in paragraph 3.45, were welcomed. It was noted that the e-deleGATE platform was a valuable source of information for delegations. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the subprogramme's work in providing expert panel proposals to the Security Council sanctions committees, by updating and maintaining a list of experts. In that regard, the delegation emphasized the importance of having an up-to-date list of experts that were ready to deploy to expedite the process and of prioritizing the inclusion of women in expert panels. With regard to result 3, enhanced engagement with Member States on the Security Council's work, a delegation welcomed efforts to enhance engagement with the United Nations membership, including through a training offer that took into account feedback received from participants, as noted in paragraph 3.52. It was emphasized that incoming Security Council members should remain a priority point of engagement.

49. With respect to subprogramme 5, Question of Palestine, a delegation said that it did not support the use of assessed contributions for the subprogramme, which was premature and presupposed the outcome of final status issues that could only be resolved through negotiations between the parties, and thus was counterproductive to efforts to secure a lasting peace.

50. With respect to subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, delegations expressed their appreciation and strong support for, and commitment to, the work of the subprogramme. Country-owned and regionally owned peacebuilding efforts were important complements to United Nations peacebuilding. Delegations also welcomed the focus on greater coordination and integration between the United Nations and international financial institutions on interventions in conflict settings.

51. The subprogramme's work in facilitating the work of the Peacebuilding Commission was acknowledged. A delegation noted that the Commission played an important role in helping to inform and support United Nations and Member State responses across the peace continuum, including through the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue; the promotion of coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict; the revitalization of economic growth; and the re-establishment of essential administrative services. A delegation said that it was pleased that the subprogramme had been able to organize visits of the Commission and provide technical and substantive advice regarding Commission meetings.

52. A delegation strongly encouraged even closer collaboration across United Nations offices and agencies. The delegation welcomed efforts to broaden the scope of countries that engaged with the Peacebuilding Commission and acknowledged efforts in that regard. The delegation expressed its support for an expanded role of the Commission to enable the United Nations system to address cross-cutting issues of security, climate change, health, development, gender equality, and human rights violations and abuses from a prevention perspective, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations bodies mandated to address these issues, with greater effectiveness and accountability.

53. Another delegation welcomed references to increasing resourcing for women and increasing women's participation in peacebuilding, and said that it looked forward to the achievement of the targets reflected in results 1 and 2. With respect to result 2, increased participation of women and youth in peacebuilding in meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission, it was noted that paragraph 3.88 reported on implementation in 2023, including the reasons behind the non-achievement of the planned targets. In that context, a delegation welcomed the planned targets for 2025, as reflected in figure 3.XII, and expressed the hope that the subprogramme would continue its efforts in that regard.

54. With reference to result 3, increased focus on mission transitions, a delegation expressed support for increased focus on such transitions and welcomed the reference to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as a specific example. More broadly, the delegation emphasized that transitions must be conducted through a phased approach and in partnership with key stakeholders, including women and young people, to ensure the protection of civilians.

55. With regard to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, a delegation said that it attached particular importance to countering terrorist threats and regretted that the results of the Office did not fully reflect the discussions that the Committee had had on the proposed programme plan during its previous session in 2023. With regard to paragraph 3.218 (a) and table 3.72, the delegation expressed the view that there was an excessive focus on enhancing the role of civil society in fighting terrorism. The

delegation opined that it was necessary to keep the work of the Office focused on its main task of providing technical assistance to those Member States that needed it. In that regard, the delegation questioned the exclusion of references to building capacity in paragraph 3.218 (f) and enhanced capacity in paragraph 3.219 (b), noting that such phrases had appeared in the 2022 programme plan, and said that they should have been included in the 2025 programme plan.

56. With respect to paragraph 3.222 on inter-agency coordination and liaison, a delegation noted the detailed information regarding the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and said that since the proposed programme plan related to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, it would have liked to see a streamlined version of paragraph 3.222, focused on the coordination functions of the Office.

57. With respect to result 2, enhanced coordination and coherence among United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, regional organizations and other partners to support the counter-terrorism efforts of Member States, a delegation noted that paragraph 3.234 made reference to only one organization, the Global Counterterrorism Forum. The delegation said that the Global Counterterrorism Forum was a platform for interaction among representatives of Member States and that it did not have the function of enhancing coordination among United Nations entities. The delegation also questioned why reference had been made to that organization only and not others, and opined that the reference should be deleted. The delegation further expressed its concern with the 2024 planned performance measure of strengthened engagement by civil society organizations in the work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, through their increased participation in its eight working groups (table 3.72). The delegation recalled that the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact had been created without the agreement of States, specifically with a view to strengthening coordination among United Nations entities involved in counter-terrorism. The delegation opined that based on the mandate of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, representatives of civil society could not participate in the working groups of the Compact. The delegation emphasized that the result should be replaced with a result that was related to technical assistance to Member States, which was, in its view, the main mandate of the Office.

Conclusions and recommendations

58. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 3 Disarmament

59. At its 5th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect.4)).

Discussion

60. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its multilateral efforts aimed at achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Delegations emphasized the importance of the work of the Office, in particular in the context of the uncertain and deteriorating security environment, and expressed appreciation for the programme plan provided. A delegation reiterated its support for the work of the Office, reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to disarmament, and noted with concern the lack of consensus on the programme.

61. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts made by the Office to support the implementation of decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. A delegation emphasized that the support provided by the Office should be impartial, depoliticized and carried out in strict accordance with the mandates given by Member States. Attention was drawn to paragraph 4.3 of the report, which contained references to *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*. In that regard, the view was expressed that references to the Agenda should be avoided as it had not received approval from all Member States. Another delegation said that while it generally supported the work of the Office, its support did not extend to the entire mandate, as it did not agree with some Assembly resolutions. The same delegation said that it strongly supported some elements of the Agenda, but did not support other elements. The delegation emphasized that the Agenda was the initiative of the Secretary-General and had not been drawn up by Member States.

62. A delegation expressed its support for the further strengthening of the role of the Office and said that Member States expected the Office to play an increased role in many areas. As an example, the delegation noted that the Office provided administrative services to the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and that the States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention would soon agree on further expanding the Implementation Support Unit to serve the two new mechanisms to be established under the Convention.

63. A delegation emphasized the need to accelerate progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and reaffirmed that nuclear weapons posed an existential threat to humanity and that a nuclear war could never be won and must never be fought. The delegation expressed the view that the only guarantee against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons was total elimination, and reiterated its deep concern over the slow pace of nuclear disarmament. The same delegation stressed the need to uphold disarmament obligations and expressed serious concern at the continuous and progressive erosion of international norms, rules and obligations in the field of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

64. A delegation stated that it did not share the view that political developments relating to international peace and security were conducive to the facilitation of negotiations on new arms limitation and disarmament agreements. The delegation cited the deteriorating international environment as one of the reasons for the launch of an initiative to address the security challenges faced and to provide a practical dialogue to facilitate further progress on disarmament. The delegation emphasized the importance of language in the programme plan that reflected nuclear non-proliferation as an issue that was as important as the elimination of existing nuclear weapons, and noted that the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons included non-proliferation and the facilitation of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as disarmament. Another delegation expressed the view that the existing multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery had played a pivotal role in stabilizing international security and order. The delegation stressed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body and the need for the international community to oppose selectivity and utilitarianism. The same delegation emphasized the legitimacy of the peaceful use of science and technology and encouraged the Office to take steps to ensure the effective implementation of General Assembly resolutions [76/234](#) and [77/96](#) on promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses in the context of international security.

65. A delegation commended the references to gender mainstreaming in the Office's operational activities, deliverables and results. The delegation expressed the view that addressing the issue of gender in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control continued to face resistance, and stated that all weapons, from nuclear weapons to drones, had a gender dimension, which had been invisible until recently. Another delegation concurred with paragraph 4.7 on mainstreaming a gender perspective.

66. A delegation referred to the mandates listed in paragraph 4.10, noted the inclusion of General Assembly resolution [68/33](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, but observed the absence of any resolutions on the matter adopted after the sixty-eighth session, such as General Assembly resolution [77/55](#). The delegation suggested that the list of mandates should be updated accordingly. Another delegation expressed the view that the Office could not interact with civil society on disarmament issues at its own discretion and that such interactions must be authorized by the Member States. The delegation said that a similar approach should be applied regarding gender issues.

67. A delegation called for equitable geographic representation in the Office.

68. With respect to subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation, a delegation referred to paragraphs 4.15 and 4.16 and observed that the Conference on Disarmament had not started substantive work in over two decades and noted the lack of agreement on its programme of work. The delegation further referenced result 2 and expressed the view that the thematic discussions referred to in paragraph 4.21 were contrary to the mandate of the Conference.

69. Another delegation questioned the emergence of new terminology in the programme plan that had never been discussed or used in relevant disarmament forums. The delegation made reference to the term "treaty-making conferences" in paragraph 4.15 (b) and sought clarification on the type of mechanisms being referred to. The delegation highlighted the inadmissibility of such wording and emphasized the need to adhere to agreed-upon language. Another delegation expressed the view that there was duplication and overlap in programmatic priorities established by the General Assembly under subprogramme 1 and highlighted the strain on the capacity of small delegations due to two open-ended working groups in the area of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The same delegation referred to table 4.3 and suggested that a reference to the second mechanism on international cooperation and assistance as part of the planned performance measures should have been included. Delegations also referred to table 4.4 and expressed the view that the planned performance measures for 2024 and 2025 should have been more realistic. A delegation stated that the reference to "inclusion of agreed language" under the 2024 planned performance measure in table 4.5 did not reflect the dynamics of the negotiations and expressed the view that such projections should not be included.

70. With respect to subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, a delegation expressed serious concern regarding the reference, in paragraph 4.28 (h), to the Secretariat's support for the efforts of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to ensure accountability for the use of chemical weapons. The delegation emphasized that such actions should not go beyond the mandate of OPCW and stressed that ensuring accountability for the use of chemical weapons was the prerogative of the Security Council. The delegation stated that governing bodies of the United Nations had not assigned that task to OPCW and stressed that Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) did not contain directives to the Organisation in that regard.

71. A delegation expressed support, in principle, for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, with the caveat that it could only be achieved with the full support of all States in the region.

72. A delegation expressed its commitment to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons, in line with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The delegation said that the most effective way to achieve that would be through gradual multilateral disarmament negotiated through the Treaty and looked forward to working with all States on nuclear disarmament during the eleventh review cycle of the Treaty and beyond. While the delegation acknowledged the need for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to be a part of the work of the Office, the delegation stressed that it would not sign or ratify the Treaty, or send observers to the Meeting of States Parties. The delegation expressed the view that the Treaty did not address the key issues that must be overcome to offer the potential for lasting global disarmament, consider solutions to the challenges posed by a deteriorating security environment, or address the technical challenges of verifying nuclear disarmament without proliferating knowledge pertaining to nuclear weapons.

73. With respect to subprogramme 3, Conventional arms, a delegation said that Member States would benefit if the Office was enabled to provide greater analytical insights in some areas, such as reporting on military expenditure and analysing trends of military expenditure and arms transfers. A delegation commended the efforts of the Office to assist Member States with the implementation of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. The delegation suggested that the process would benefit from renewed momentum going into 2025 and expressed its support for efforts to link stakeholder engagement on small arms and light weapons with broader development processes.

74. Referring to figure 4.I, a delegation sought clarification on whether the dedicated fellowship training programme had commenced and requested an update on its current status and progress.

75. With respect to subprogramme 4, Information and outreach, a delegation sought clarification on the inclusion of result 1 in the programme plan. The delegation expressed the view that developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies were achieved through negotiations between Governments on cybersecurity, and were not related to information and outreach. The same delegation stated that the strategy for information and outreach of the Office could have been more comprehensive, through the use of flexibility, capacity and dynamics, and use social networks and media to reach young people and raise awareness among them about the importance of disarmament.

76. A delegation stated that it attached great importance to the empowerment of young people in disarmament and non-proliferation discussions and welcomed the inclusion of a paragraph on lessons learned and planned change (para. 4.63).

77. With respect to subprogramme 5, Regional disarmament, a delegation referred to result 1 and sought clarification on the inclusion of the application of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) in the regional context. In that regard, the delegation expressed the view that the regional approach was not adequate and that the global level was more appropriate. With respect to table 4.22, another delegation sought clarification on the variance between the planned and actual deliverables for 2023 with respect to the implementation of General Assembly resolution [65/69](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Conclusions and recommendations

78. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 4 Peacekeeping operations

79. At its 11th meeting, on 20 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 5)).

Discussion

80. Delegations expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Delegations recognized the important role and mandate of peacekeeping operations in preserving international peace and security. It was noted that peacekeeping was the strongest manifestation of the United Nations commitment to a more peaceful world.

81. The critical nature of the Department’s work and the invaluable service provided by peacekeeping missions was acknowledged, and the Department was encouraged to remain steadfast as millions of people depended on its work to restore peace in crisis areas around the world. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the staff of the Department and peacekeepers in the field for their tireless work to deliver on their respective mandates and safeguard the communities they served in the most challenging operational environments.

82. Delegations commended all troop- and police-contributing countries for their contributions and ongoing commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and recognized the risks they took every day. Delegations emphasized and reiterated their commitment and support to peacekeeping operations and the work of the Department, including through their participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions. Clarification was sought on whether the number of military personnel in peacekeeping missions was adequate to implement the mandates.

83. It was recognized that United Nations peacekeeping personnel had been working for over 75 years to maintain and support international peace and security across the world. The contribution of United Nations peacekeepers protecting civilians from violence, preserving ceasefires, establishing trust and promoting peaceful solutions to conflict was acknowledged. A delegation welcomed the efforts undertaken by United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions, to deliver and find innovative ways to implement their mandates under extraordinary circumstances so as to advance peace in various parts of the world. The view was expressed that peacekeeping missions supported political processes for reconciliation in very difficult conditions, working with a range of stakeholders in areas such as peacebuilding, human rights, governance, the rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, and the women and peace and security agenda.

84. Delegations welcomed and expressed their support for the comprehensive proposed programme plan. A delegation opined that the proposed programme plan for the Department of Peace Operations was one of the best programme plans presented

and invited other Departments of the Secretariat to learn from the best practices. Another delegation expressed its support for certain aspects of the programme plan, such as the relevance of close coordination with other entities in the field, particularly within the United Nations system. The delegation emphasized that it attached utmost importance to enhancing national ownership in the design and fulfilment of mandates.

85. Another delegation expressed the view that the proposed programme for 2025 reflected the effective and efficient role of peacekeepers in maintaining peace and security. A delegation expressed its support for the improved effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, which enabled better conditions for field personnel. The delegation stated that peacekeeping operations should be strengthened in order to be more effective in the future. A delegation sought clarification on whether the Department had factored in the Summit of the Future in its programme planning, or if the outcome of the Summit of the Future would have an impact on the proposed programme plan.

86. A delegation recognized the significant work undertaken by the Department of Peace Operations and other relevant Departments in implementing clear, focused and achievable mandates on peacekeeping operations. The ongoing efforts of the Department to continuously improve its support to peacekeeping operations, strengthen its performance, adapt to current risks and challenges, and ensure the relevance and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping was acknowledged.

87. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation expressed the view that peacekeeping operations were more complex, violent and riskier and in such conditions, resources should be spent on missions that operated in such contexts. The delegation expressed its concern that the overall plan for peacekeeping operations for 2025 was based on the assumption that there would be clear, focused and achievable mandates, which had not been the case for some time, and stated that the planning assumptions should be realistic rather than optimistic.

88. It was recognized that the landscape of United Nations peacekeeping was changing significantly, with the closure of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the drawdown of MONUSCO. The view was expressed that, while large, multidimensional peacekeeping operations appeared to be in decline, such missions, including existing missions, continued to play an important role in the delivery of United Nations mandates in conflict-affected areas. Another delegation expressed its support for the concept of multidimensional peacekeeping operations and the development of programmes for the rule of law and transitional justice, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and security sector reform. Support was also expressed for the effective implementation of directives relating to gender and the effective execution of protection of civilian populations in those mandates that included it.

89. A delegation expressed its support for the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, while another delegation sought clarification on how deliberations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations were taken into account when formulating the strategies and the planned results in the proposed programme plan.

90. It was noted that consideration by the General Assembly of the question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects was especially relevant insofar as it reflected the changing themes and debates and influenced the way in which it was perceived by other organs of the organization, especially the Security Council. In that regard, the delegation expressed its support for the development of a transparent and democratic peacekeeping system within the United Nations framework.

91. A delegation expressed its regret that the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination entitled it to review the programme plans of only two peacekeeping missions out of the 11 currently active peacekeeping missions. The delegation opined that the General Assembly should enable the Committee to carry out its mandate of reviewing the entirety of the Organization's work.

92. Under mandates and background, a delegation welcomed the Department's efforts to continue to improve peacekeeping, enhance its performance and adapt to contemporary risks and challenges, as reflected in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

93. It was noted that the objectives, strategies and performance measures were generally well chosen, mutually complementary and relevant. With reference to paragraph 5.2 under the strategy and external factors for 2025, some delegations welcomed the references to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda across all peace functions; the support for effective performance and accountability of all mission components through the ongoing implementation of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System; and the improvement of the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel which were areas of major interest for the delegations.

94. A delegation paid tribute to the valuable work of peacekeepers in making it possible for the peacekeeping mandates to be fulfilled. It was emphasized that the safety and security of peacekeepers was paramount and should be the first priority of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its implementation plan, Action for Peacekeeping Plus. A delegation opined that the Organization should redouble its efforts in that regard, in particular with respect to training and preparing troop- and police-contributing countries for deployment. Other delegations expressed their support for the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, which they opined served as a guiding framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General's continued dedication to the framework was acknowledged. It was noted that the initiative promoted collective action from all relevant stakeholders which strengthened peacekeeping operations. Delegations also expressed their support for the priorities set out in Action for Peacekeeping Plus.

95. A delegation noted its continued support for reforms that improved performance and accountability in peacekeeping. The view was expressed that reforms should enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers, as well as increase the operational effectiveness of civilian and uniformed components. The Secretary-General was commended for his efforts in this area.

96. A delegation welcomed the prioritization of effective performance and accountability of all mission components through the implementation of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to evaluate mission performance using data and analysis, and the development of an integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework and increased engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries on performance. A delegation stated that the prioritization of political solutions was fundamental to peacekeeping reform, as was making missions more efficient, effective and accountable.

97. Several delegations welcomed the continued strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, including its cooperation with other regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa. It was noted that such efforts were essential for capacity-building and support to new and emerging troop-contributing countries. A delegation expressed its view that the adoption of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) presented an opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, including the joint implementation of the resolution. The delegation indicated that it looked forward to targeted activities by the Secretariat that would implement the resolution,

which determined that African Union-led support operations could be financed from United Nations-assessed contributions on a case-by-case basis.

98. The imperative for the United Nations to support the maintenance of international peace and security both through ongoing delivery and forward-looking innovation was stressed. A delegation expressed the view that the use of new technologies was not only vital for enhancing performance but also for improving the safety and security of peacekeepers and peacekeeping infrastructure. The delegation advocated for more activities on the exploration and deployment of relevant and effective technologies to support peacekeeping operations.

99. Accurate reporting and continuous innovation of data availability and distribution was emphasized and welcomed. It was opined that such efforts were important for enabling the full review and evaluation of mission operations to ensure an efficient, effective and cohesive approach to mandate delivery. Another delegation expressed its support to harness technology for peacekeeping missions and reiterated its view that sensitivity of host countries and neighbouring Member States should be taken into account in that regard. The delegation opined that data security was of paramount importance and any plans to use database technologies should also incorporate plans for data security.

100. Delegations welcomed the increased role played by women in peacekeeping missions, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 for promoting gender equality and women empowerment and highlighted their appreciation for the integration of a gender perspective in the Department's operational, activities, deliverables and results.

101. A delegation noted that persons with disabilities made up approximately 15 per cent of the world's population and emphasized the importance of full and beneficial participation and integration of persons with disabilities in society, including as an integral part of peacekeeping missions. It was noted that including persons with disabilities in peacekeeping missions was critical and strategic and could bring several benefits and contribute to the effectiveness and inclusivity of such missions. The delegation provided several reasons for the importance of including persons with disabilities in peacekeeping missions. First, to contribute to diverse perspectives and insights; second, to contribute to representation and inclusivity; third, to raise awareness about the challenges faced by, and advocate for inclusive policies and practices for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities; fourth, to support capacity-building and empowerment of individuals with disabilities to actively participate in decision-making processes; and fifth, to be a bridge and common denominator between persons with disabilities from different national groups, owing to their shared challenges and barriers. The delegation sought further information from the Department regarding its plans to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in peace operations and specifically in peacekeeping missions.

102. With respect to evaluation activities of the Department of Peace Operations, a delegation referred to paragraph 5.12 and expressed its support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System in all United Nations peacekeeping operations. It was noted that better data was required to support evidence-based decision-making in New York and throughout missions. The delegation believed that it was important for the United Nations to continue improving the collection, sharing and use of data across the board to support integrated planning structures in missions. Another delegation observed that the establishment of a youth, peace and security coordination network at Headquarters and in the field and plans to elaborate the terms of reference for youth, peace and security focal points were positive developments. With respect to evaluations planned for 2025 reflected in paragraph 5.13, a delegation expressed the view that it would have been useful to

have some idea of the evaluations to be carried out, and expressed its expectation that Member States be informed promptly.

103. With respect to subprogramme 1, Operations, a delegation noted that there was not much information or clear targets on transitions of missions and requested further information on the specific activities planned with respect to the transition of MONUSCO. Further information was also requested on why the workshop for regional and subregional political strategies for peacekeeping in Africa (table 5.5, category B, deliverable 6) was not held in 2023.

104. With respect to subprogramme 2, Military, a delegation referred to paragraph 5.30 (e) under the strategy section and sought clarification on the Department's plans to initiate and deploy a performance evaluation process for individual uniformed personnel. In that regard, the delegation inquired about how the planned performance evaluation process for individual uniformed personnel was linked with the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System and the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework. Delegations also questioned why the evaluation system focused on individual uniformed personnel and not all personnel including civilians.

105. It was noted that similar to training, performance and evaluation were also cross-cutting issues, particularly in subprogrammes 2 and 3. A delegation called on the Department to avoid possible duplication and overlap of activities and provided the example that activities pertaining to the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System needed to be clarified and reflected under the relevant subprogramme.

106. A delegation expressed its satisfaction with result 2, advanced gender parity for military individual uniformed personnel in United Nations peace operations, and noted the increase in the percentage of female military individual uniformed personnel in United Nations peace operations. It was noted with appreciation that the planned target of 22 per cent in 2023 had been exceeded. The delegation underlined that comprehensive reporting and targeted planning on categories other than military personnel, as outlined in the United Nations Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy for the period 2018–2028, was required.

107. With regard to subprogramme 3, Rule of law and security institutions, and specifically paragraph 5.42, a delegation welcomed the reference in the objective for efforts undertaken by special political missions to strengthen the rule of law and security governance in their areas of operation. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the results achieved, as well as the planned strategy and performance targets for subprogramme 3. The delegation observed that it saw an opportunity to coordinate with subprogramme 1, which focused on transitions, and recommended continuity in seeking accountability for crimes against peacekeepers during transition and drawdown phases, as well as post-drawdown phase, that should be included in the planning process.

108. With regard to result 1, enhanced accountability for crimes against United Nations personnel in peacekeeping operations and special political missions, a delegation referred to paragraphs 5.47 and 5.48, and strongly condemned crimes against United Nations personnel. The delegation requested the Department to strengthen cooperation with relevant host countries and take stronger measures to effectively protect the lives and safety of peacekeepers.

109. With reference to result 3, improved performance of United Nations police to enhance mandate implementation, a delegation referred to paragraphs 5.51 and 5.52 and figure 5.VII, and highlighted the performance measures of 98 per cent in 2023, and targets of 100 per cent in 2024 and 2025. The delegation observed that based on

lessons learned, the subprogramme would assess United Nations police performance on a quarterly basis and formulate tailored performance improvement plans to inform future rotations and deployments. The delegation noted that the target of 100 per cent of evaluations of United Nations formed police units that indicate a performance level of satisfactory or above in 2025 reflected the pursuit of operational excellence by the Department.

110. With respect to table 5.9 (category B, deliverables 11 and 13), a delegation noted that there were few field and technical cooperation projects on security sector reform and governance, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and requested further explanations as there was a high demand for such support both in-mission and off-mission settings.

111. With respect to subprogramme 4, Policy, evaluation and training, while it was recognized that training of uniformed personnel was a crosscutting issue in all aspects of peacekeeping and in all the subprogrammes, training was considered more critical for military contingents and police personnel prior to and during deployment. In order to meet the targets, the Secretariat was urged to continue to provide necessary training materials and mechanisms to troop- and police-contributing countries, including user-friendly coordination services through the triangular partnership programme and the light coordination mechanism. Another delegation noted with concern that there was no plan to measure the performance of non-uniformed components in peacekeeping missions and reiterated that missions could not succeed if only some components were being measured, or if only some components were performing while others were not. The delegation emphasized its concern that although this aspect had been highlighted in previous reports it was not incorporated in the programme plan for 2025 and suggested that the issue should be addressed.

112. With respect to result 2, troop-contributing countries prepare infantry battalions in line with United Nations standards, it was noted that the information contained in paragraphs 5.62 and 5.63 were very important for the implementation of peacekeeping missions' mandates. A delegation observed that remarkable progress had been achieved, with the cumulative number of troop-contributing countries deploying infantry battalions prepared in line with United Nations standards increasing from 14 in 2021 to 34 in 2023. The delegation expressed the expectation that there should be greater progress because the results for 2025 reflected a higher number of battalions prepared in line with United Nations standards. The delegation observed that in 2023 the targets were not achieved as a result of administrative and logistical challenges precluding two Member States from receiving the training. The delegation opined that figure 5.VIII could be a little misleading and questioned whether the figure also included countries that proposed battalions that did not meet United Nations standards for deployment.

113. A delegation noted that UNMOGIP was one of the first peacekeeping missions established by the United Nations, with its core function of the monitoring of the ceasefire across the line of control in the internationally recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The view was expressed that UNMOGIP played a key role in the maintenance of regional and international peace and security. The delegation expressed its appreciation for the unique role carried out by the Mission in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the delegation was of the view that in the interest of regional peace and stability all efforts must be made to ensure effective delivery of this Mission's mandate, including through the provision of adequate resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

114. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 5 Peaceful uses of outer space

115. At its 3rd meeting, on 14 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 6)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2024/6).

Discussion

116. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the mandate of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and its role in advancing international cooperation, while strengthening capacities in space and science technology. The role of the Office as the custodian of the United Nations treaties governing the rights and obligations of States in space was also recognized and welcomed. A delegation expressed its support for the role of the Office as a key multilateral forum for fostering a conducive environment that strengthened the safety, stability, and sustainability of space activities and building capacity in space law and policy. Another delegation welcomed the important role of the Office in raising awareness and understanding on the normative framework that guides the conduct of outer space activities.

117. A delegation noted that in the past year, the Office had made great contributions to improving global governance of outer space and enhancing international cooperation. The view was expressed that the rapid development of space science and technology, the emergence of new types of space activities, the diversity of space entities and the rapid growth of commercial space activities, while benefiting lives, also brought new challenges to the global governance of outer space. The delegation expressed its hope that the Office would continue to practice true multilateralism and would also maintain the international monitoring of outer space as underpinned in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

118. Delegations welcomed the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance for 2023 presented in the report. A delegation expressed its appreciation and support for the Office’s important mandate to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and noted the Office’s proposed strategy for 2025. Another delegation highlighted that it attached great importance to the safety and security of outer space, and that it believed that it must be kept as a domain free from threats or violence. Delegations reiterated their commitment to a framework that maintained peace in outer space, and their commitment to work collaboratively with the United Nations and Member States to advance international cooperation and transparency in space activities.

119. The Office’s role as the substantive secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and working groups was recognized and emphasized. A delegation expressed its strong support for the rules-based international system, with the United Nations at its core, and a multilateral approach to international affairs, which, it noted, included the cooperation on outer space

issues. The delegation stated that with its new space strategy, it had committed itself to work on the development of space law in the Committee, and to contribute to the agreement of guidelines, standards and norms enabling the safe and sustainable exploration and use of space by future generations. The delegation noted that the five United Nations space treaties were the foundational framework for all space activities, and that the Committee, and its legal subcommittee in particular, were the central platforms for developing the legal framework for space activities.

120. A delegation commended the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its work in a rapidly growing sector, and recognized that the Office's initiatives in space debris mitigation, management of space resources, and long-term sustainability of outer space activities were critical. It was noted that, in recent years, space activities had experienced growing relevance, with increasing space traffic and the rapid increase in the number of objects launched into space. A delegation observed that with that trend, the tasks of the Office and Member States' demands had further increased. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation questioned whether the Office had been adequately equipped with the necessary resources to meet that growing demand, since, at each session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the past years, the Director had informed Member States about the growing challenges faced by the Office to fulfil its mandate. The delegation expressed the view that with an expected increase in tasks for the Office, it was necessary to ensure that the Office had the resources to meet its requirements and fulfil its mandate, as failing to do so could have detrimental effects on the functioning of the legal framework for space activities, especially at a time of growing challenges to space governance where legal certainty is more important than ever. Another delegation noted that the Office had an interesting but difficult task and observed that the Office had to work with significant resource constraints, while the Office's expanding project activities to support developing countries seeking to take advantage of the benefits of space technologies required significant resources, in particular human resources.

121. Several delegations underscored the importance of the peaceful exploration of space science and technology in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of its Goals, and commended the initiatives of the Office in that regard. The Office was urged to continue supporting developing countries in leveraging space technologies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and that the benefits of space technology should be made widely available, and that developing countries should receive the proper support to make full use of them. The view was expressed that the benefits of space exploration should become a fundamental tool to support the development efforts of countries. In that regard, a delegation provided examples of such issues that included the development of space legislation and water management with space technologies. Another delegation opined that it favoured a free data policy that facilitated access to satellite data by users in areas that needed them most, and supported programs aimed at training and educating users in developing nations so that they could receive, interpret, use and make such data available to end users in a meaningful way. A delegation expressed its support for the Office's efforts to advance international cooperation for harnessing the potential of space as a driver of sustainable development.

122. Several delegations observed that outer space was a common heritage of humankind. A delegation noted that outer space presented a source of potential benefits for all countries and could be explored in a way that would be conducive to increasing prosperity, security and well-being. Another delegation expressed the view that outer space should not be subject to national appropriation or claims of

sovereignty, and that it should be used for peaceful purposes and remain accessible to all nations on a non-discriminatory basis, irrespective of the level of scientific, technical or economic development. The delegation expressed its hope that the Office would contribute to promote inclusivity and robust international cooperation for capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer, which it considered critical for developing nations in the field of peaceful uses of outer space. Another delegation called upon the Office to continue supporting countries, in particular developing countries, in providing direct access to space based emergency response mechanisms.

123. Under the strategy and external factors section, and with respect to paragraph 6.4 (c), a delegation reiterated the importance of the Office's work with Member States to promote the peaceful use of outer space. In particular, the delegation recognized the Office's work to ensure the implementation of a legal framework governing space activities, the registration of objects launched into outer space, steps for space debris mitigation, and other constructive efforts as essential functions providing a normative framework for outer space activities. In that context, the delegation requested an update on the state of improvements to the registration of space objects through the modernized online platform. Another delegation noted that the Office played an important role in implementing relevant aspects of the legal framework, including through maintaining the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, among other responsibilities.

124. A delegation noted references in the programme plan to the Office's cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in particular references contained in paragraphs 6.4 and 6.7. The delegation expressed the view that the main mandate of the Office was to facilitate the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was an intergovernmental platform for discussion, specifically and primarily by States, of current issues of international space law. The delegation expressed the view that according to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, international responsibility for activities in outer space, whether carried out by governmental authorities or non-governmental entities, were borne by States, and that therefore, in its assessment, the prioritization of interaction with NGOs was not within the Office's mandate. The delegation sought clarification on who the Office interacted with when it referred to "other partners" and "other space-related entities" in paragraphs 6.4 (c) and 6.7, respectively.

125. With respect to the external factors reflected in paragraph 6.6, a delegation questioned which part of the activities of the Office would be supported by NGOs. The delegation expressed the view that the budget of the Office was funded through contributions from Member States, which received direct assistance within the framework of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

126. With respect to paragraph 6.7, the efforts by the Office to foster partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels, across governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, industry and academic organizations was recognized as important to ensuring cohesion, coherence, and transparency in programmatic activities. In that regard, a delegation observed that partnerships with the private sector were also essential, while another delegation requested further information on the Office's plans to meet the growing demand for support to strengthen the capacity of developing countries.

127. With respect to paragraph 6.8, a delegation expressed appreciation for the Office's work to promote and better coordinate data-sharing and cooperation on the procurement of space-based information. The delegation expressed its view that an agreed system for such cooperation would contribute to progressing the implementation of the

Sustainable Development Goals and to strengthening the United Nations development system's capacity to deliver in line with the priorities of the Global South.

128. With respect to paragraph 6.9, several delegations expressed their support for the Space for Women project that would promote the empowerment of women and girls in the areas of space science, technology, innovation and exploration. Several delegations also commended the Office for mainstreaming gender in its operational activities, deliverables and results.

129. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Office's continued efforts to identify opportunities for disability inclusion in the space sector and encouraged the sharing of good practices for accessibility in scientific research, education, and outreach, as detailed in the programme plan.

130. With respect to paragraph 6.11 under the evaluation section, several delegations requested further information regarding the reason why the evaluation planned for 2023 on the activities under the Access to Space for All initiative was delayed, and when it would be completed in 2024.

131. With respect to paragraph 6.19, under result 3: increased access to space, a delegation emphasized that technical assistance to Member States should be provided strictly at their request.

Conclusions and recommendations

132. **The Committee welcomed the contribution of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to the promotion of international cooperation on space activities, including its efforts to strengthen the capacity of a greater number of developing countries to use space science and technology, and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to further leverage cooperation with other United Nations agencies, Member States, and the private sector in that respect.**

133. **The Committee recalled the importance of the Office continuing to focus on its core functions, in particular being the secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, performing its duties as the register for space objects and raising awareness on the need to coordinate actions regarding space debris.**

134. **The Committee noted the continued increase of space objects launched every year, welcomed the continued development of the register for space objects and reiterated the importance of efforts from the Office in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to protect the spectrum.**

135. **The Committee welcomed the implementation of the Space for Women project and Space for Persons with Disabilities project and highlighted the importance of increasing empowerment for women and inclusion for persons with disabilities in the areas of space science, technology, innovation and exploration and advocating for greater awareness in the corresponding education in collaboration with relevant partners.**

136. **The Committee welcomed the action being taken by the Office, including through the work with Member States, to build transparency and resilience in outer space activities where relevant and applicable, as well as to raise awareness regarding the importance of peaceful uses of outer space in global agendas and summits, including Our Common Agenda and the Summit of the Future, and advocating for treaty compliance and access to space for all.**

137. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 6.4 (c)

After “Work with Member States, intergovernmental and”, insert “, where relevant and applicable, ”.

Paragraph 6.5 (c)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Greater understanding, acceptance and application of the international legal framework governing space activities;

Paragraph 6.13

Replace “The programme, as executive secretariat to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems,” with “The Office, as executive secretariat to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems,”.

Planned results for 2025

Result 1

In the title of result 1, replace “international legal regime governing outer space activities” with “international legal framework governing outer space activities”.

Paragraph 6.15

Replace “implement the international regime governing outer space activities” with “implement the international legal framework governing outer space activities”.

Figure 6.II

In the title of the figure, replace “international legal regime governing outer space activities” with “international legal framework governing outer space activities”.

Programme 6

Legal affairs

138. At its 5th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered Programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

139. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the essential and valuable work undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs. Several delegations observed that the rule of law was the fundamental basis of the United Nations and its work, and expressed their appreciation and support for the crucial role played by the Office, which, as the

central legal service of the United Nations, dealt with a broad range of legal issues related to the progressive development of international public and trade law and its codification, the registration and publication of treaties, oceans and the law of the sea, international trade, peacekeeping and special political missions, international tribunals, sanctions, and privileges and immunities. Several delegations welcomed the close coordination and consultations undertaken by the Office in supporting Member States.

140. Delegations noted that the Office of Legal Affairs and its staff operated with the highest standards of accountability, credibility, neutrality, transparency and efficiency, and professionalism. Delegations recognized the comprehensive programme plan and expressed their support for the objectives, strategies and deliverables of the Office. A delegation noted that the range of activities, breadth of relationships and depth of expertise demonstrated the professionalism, efficiency and results-driven culture of the Office.

141. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Office to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and to the International Law Commission, and highlighted the fundamental role of the Office in the progressive development and codification of international law, which would ensure that all forms of intergovernmental activities were provided with an appropriate legal framework.

142. A delegation stated that it attached great importance to the work of the Office of Legal Affairs, and fully supported the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, and the advancement of the International Law Commission's deliberations on improving its working methods. The delegation expressed its appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs for faithfully discharging its responsibilities and steadily carrying out its work and its strengthened focus on communication and cooperation with Member States. The delegation expressed its hope that the Office of Legal Affairs would continue to perform its duties faithfully, uphold an objective and impartial position, interpret the rules of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in a complete and accurate manner, so as to contribute to the codification and progressive development of international law, and maintain an international order based on international law.

143. Delegations noted with appreciation the support provided by the Office to Member States in the process of preparation for the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. Delegations underlined the important role of the Office of Legal Affairs in supporting every dimension of international cooperation by assisting United Nations bodies and Member States with the provision of legal expertise. A delegation congratulated the Office of Legal Affairs on the efforts and outcome of its work in 2023 with regard to the law of the sea, ocean affairs and biodiversity. The delegation expressed the view that an important achievement had been made on those issues and sought clarification on what the Office considered were the biggest challenges for its work in that field in 2025.

144. A delegation expressed its support for the Office's role in the implementation and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14, relating to oceans and the law of the sea. The delegation noted the increased participation of States in and the effective implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementing agreements. The work of the Office in providing secretariat functions to oceans-related processes of the General Assembly and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf was recognized.

145. A delegation highlighted the important work of the International Trade Law Division and its work as the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The delegation recognized the work of the Office in coordinating and encouraging the harmonization and development of international trade law, and noted its work on governance of international commercial transactions, strengthening technical cooperation and promoting the participation of developing countries in the law-making activities of UNCITRAL.

146. With reference to the introductory statement made by the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs, a delegation noted with interest the organization of a workshop for the benefit of francophone Member States in two regions in particular. While the delegation expressed its support for the organization of such workshops, further information was requested on the criteria, in particular the geographic criteria, that led to the participation of Member States in those workshops. The delegation sought clarification on how such workshops could be organized in cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie.

147. With respect to the strategy and external factors for 2025 under the overall orientation for the Office of Legal Affairs, a delegation expressed the view that the word “continue to” should be included in paragraphs 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.8. and 8.11, noting that the addition would express the continued engagement and underline the important efforts the Office had undertaken thus far, which were both highly appreciated.

148. With reference to paragraph 8.16, a delegation welcomed and considered the integration of a gender perspective into the operational activities, deliverables and results of the Office of utmost importance and noted with appreciation that the Office would continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout all its subprogrammes, through its use of gender inclusive language in the context of the Office’s capacity-building programmes and other related aspects.

149. A delegation expressed strong support for Office’s continuous efforts in improving its monitoring and evaluation practices, including on cross-cutting issues, such as monitoring the development of artificial intelligence applications. With respect to a broader assessment on capacity-building activities, the delegation supported and called for the continuation of the leveraging of partnerships and responding to requests by Member States for provision of workshops on international law.

150. With respect to subprogramme 1, Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole, a delegation observed that paragraphs 8.24 (b), 8.25 (d) and category E in table 8.6, made reference to the provision of support to the United Nations criminal tribunals and their oversight bodies as well as “other international accountability mechanisms”. The delegation sought clarification on what the mechanisms were. With respect to result 1, a data protection and privacy framework for the Secretariat, and the performance measures reflected for 2024 and 2025 in table 8.3, a delegation sought further clarification on the use of the term “additional actions” in 2025. The delegation inquired if the use of the term “additional actions” indicated a prioritization of actions to be taken. With respect to table 8.6 and category E of the deliverables, a delegation noted the use of the phrase “providing legal advice to 18 United Nations entities on the interpretation and implementation of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court”, and opined that it was not clear why the particular cooperation agreement was included in the programme plan, as not all Member States of the United Nations were members of the organization. The delegation sought clarification on the Secretary-General’s position with regard to the fact that the International Criminal Court and the United

Nations were separate entities, and what the basis was for its inclusion, noting that some States Members of the United Nations were not parties to the Rome Statute.

151. A delegation noted with regret the absence of specific references to the Office's work in assisting the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in the programme plan. The delegation expressed the view that General Assembly resolution [78/116](#), on the report of the Committee, provided a mandate to the Secretary-General to launch an arbitration procedure under section 21 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, and that the Office of Legal Affairs played a primary role in that regard. The delegation further opined that the relevant section of the programme plan would need to be amended and supplemented with a list of specific steps aimed at resolving the problems faced by the Permanent Missions of a number of States Members of the United Nations, including measures to prepare for arbitration. The delegation expressed its disappointment that, despite repeated instructions from the General Assembly, the programme plan had not included such information.

152. With respect to subprogramme 2, General legal services provided to the United Nations organs and programmes, and result 1, strengthened capacity for the United Nations to stay and deliver through COVID-19 vaccinations, a delegation requested clarification on which specific residual issues of a legal nature were referred to in the performance measures presented in table 8.8. The delegation requested information on what specific legal services had been provided, the projected time frame for the completion of the residual issues, and whether a further assessment was required to determine if the plan would need to be retained.

153. With respect to subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, a delegation expressed support for the role of the Office in the progressive development and codification of international law, including serving as the secretariat of the Sixth Committee and by supporting the International Law Commission and other bodies, as reflected in tables 8.13 and 8.14. The delegation thanked the Office and the Codification Division for their guidance and support in organizing the Legal Advisers meeting in 2023.

154. With respect to result 3, applications from more States for the training and programmes in international law under the programme of assistance, a delegation noted with appreciation the in-person training programmes under the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law conducted annually on diverse topics of international law for developing countries and countries with emerging economies. The delegation highlighted the importance of the increased outreach activities, including through the use of social media and the United Nations Information Centres to encourage applications from countries with fewer participants. Another delegation observed the need for the prioritization of the Programme of Assistance. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the delegation expressed the view that additional resources should be committed to the Programme of Assistance, as it would ensure accessibility to a wider audience, with due consideration to equitable geographical representation and the specific needs of developing countries, in particular in the Asia and Pacific region.

155. With respect to subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, a delegation highlighted its appreciation and strong support for the proposed programme plan and the work carried out by the subprogramme which was of paramount importance for sustainable development. A delegation noted the substantive and administrative support provided by the Office to the process that led to the adoption on 19 June 2023 by the intergovernmental Conference convened by the General Assembly pursuant to

its resolution [72/249](#) of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. The delegation expressed the view that the adoption of the agreement was likely to contribute to the achievement of the ocean related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and thanked the Office for the professional support provided to the conference and other ocean processes. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the support and legal advice provided by the Office, in particular in connection with the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-organized by Costa Rica and France in June 2025.

156. A delegation sought clarification on how the tasks planned by the Office, as reflected in the strategy section in paragraph 8.63, would result in an increased number of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementing agreements, as reflected in paragraph 8.64. A delegation noted the references to the promotion of a better understanding of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, reflected in paragraph 8.63 (d) and item 26 in table 8.20, and expressed its view that such measures were premature, as the international treaty had not yet entered into force. The delegation further opined that assistance to developing countries in strengthening their capacity to participate in the Agreement should be undertaken only at the request of those States.

157. With reference to result 1, enhanced coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, in particular through UN-Oceans, a delegation noted the reference to the term “ocean-climate nexus”, and the increased awareness of it by Members States, as reflected in table 8.17. The delegation observed that the paragraph of the General Assembly resolution referred to the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which was simply a platform for the exchange of views on topical maritime issues and therefore did not provide a mandate for the Secretariat to carry out the proposed tasks. The delegation also sought clarification on what was meant by “rules and standards” reflected in table 8.17.

158. With respect to result 3, enhanced commitment of Member States to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources through the implementation of international law, further clarification was requested regarding the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships referred to in paragraph 8.71, and the identification of gaps in the effective implementation of international law reflected in the 2023 (actual) performance measure in table 8.19. The delegation expressed the view that it was not aware of a mandate from Member States for the creation of such partnerships.

159. With respect to table 8.20, clarification was requested with respect to the counting methods of three-hour meetings for deliverables number 13, 15, and 19 under the subcategories substantive services for meetings and conference and secretariat services for meetings.

160. With respect to subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade, a delegation expressed its support for the increased activities reported, particularly those related to technical assistance and capacity-building for Governments, on implementation guidance and interpretative materials, as well as training activities and advice on the enactment of UNCITRAL texts into national law.

161. With respect to subprogramme 6, Custody, registration and publication of treaties a delegation highlighted the important work of the subprogramme in

undertaking the registration and publication of treaties and carrying out the depository functions for multilateral treaties. The delegation emphasized the important role of the Office in the registration of treaties and the effectiveness of an international order based on international law. The delegation expressed the view that the Office had been performing the function with great professionalism, which it considered paramount to the transparency of the international treaty framework. A delegation welcomed the programme performance in 2023, as reflected in table 8.26, and emphasized the importance of increased transparency of the international treaty framework and the facilitation of the participation of States in multilateral treaties concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and deposited with the Secretary-General. Another delegation welcomed result 3, Member States advance discussion on treaty practice, and noted that such initiatives would ultimately improve international treaty practice. The delegation referred to General Assembly resolution [78/236](#) which mandated the establishment of new initiatives to support the debate of the Sixth Committee.

162. Regarding the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, several delegations reiterated their strong support for the work of the Mechanism, and reaffirmed that the mandate of the Mechanism was established by resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including Human Rights Council resolutions [39/2](#), [42/3](#) and [43/26](#), which were subsequently reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/264](#). Delegations expressed the view that the Secretary-General had been called upon to include the necessary funding for the Mechanisms in the regular budget, and therefore Member States had the responsibility to ensure that General Assembly decisions were fully respected and adequately executed and included in the proposed programme plan for Programme 6, Legal affairs.

163. A delegation noted the vital role played by the Mechanism in collecting, consolidating, preserving and analysing evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011. The delegation observed that the prepared files could be shared with national, regional or international courts and tribunals to facilitate fair and independent criminal proceedings.

164. The view was expressed that preventing new atrocities and other abuses, addressing the needs of victims and survivors, and ensuring those responsible for atrocities and other abuses were held accountable were all essential to addressing the ongoing crisis in Myanmar and helping the country return to a path towards a democratic, peaceful and prosperous state. In that regard, the delegation expressed its appreciation for the Mechanism's efforts in addressing those challenging circumstances, and congratulated the Mechanism on its progress, flexibility and effectiveness.

165. Other delegations expressed concern and disappointment on the continued inclusion of the Mechanism under programme 6, Legal affairs. A delegation noted that there remained a wide divergence of views among Member States on the establishment and functions of the two Mechanisms included under programme 6, Legal affairs and requested clarification from the Secretariat on why the programmes of the two Mechanisms were included under said programme 6.

166. Regarding the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, several delegations reiterated their support for the Mechanism and acknowledged the essential role it played in ensuring accountability through gathering evidence on past crimes and documenting ongoing human rights violations against the Syrian people. Several delegations recognized the tangible progress made by the Mechanism in the implementation of its mandate since 2011. Several delegations expressed their strong

support for the Mechanism's work, including the investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes under international law and facilitation of inclusive justice by ensuring that crimes, victims and survivors received adequate attention. It was stressed that the Mechanism was a vital instrument that provided prosecutors and investigators with the information and evidence needed to ensure criminal accountability, thereby achieving a measure of justice for the many victims. A delegation expressed its strong support for such information being made available to assist in new prosecutions, where jurisdictions existed.

167. Several delegations reaffirmed the validity of the Mechanism's mandate in General Assembly resolution 71/248 and reiterated that Member States had the responsibility to ensure that the mandate and subsequent General Assembly decisions were fully respected and adequately executed. Another delegation provided examples of United Nations mandates established by General Assembly resolutions adopted by vote, which included the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, (resolution 62/85); the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (resolution 60/180); and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. In that regard, delegations further reaffirmed their support for the inclusion of the Mechanism's proposed programme plan under programme 6, Legal affairs.

168. A delegation expressed its strong support for the work of the Mechanism and noted that since the Mechanism was established, it had made great progress in implementing its critically important mandate to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses committed in the Syrian Arab Republic over the past decade. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation observed that the work of documenting atrocities, collecting evidence and pursuing justice was resource-intensive and required sustained financial support, and called upon Member States to maintain full funding for the Mechanism's work, including through the United Nations regular budget.

169. A delegation expressed its strong view that global order required the rule of law where there was no shelter for the perpetrators of any crimes under international law. The delegation further stressed that there could not be sustainable peace without justice, and therefore expressed its continued support to the Mechanism and other complementary mechanisms contributing to the fight against impunity, such as Commissions of Inquiry and the Investigation and Identification Team of OPCW.

170. It was noted with satisfaction that the Mechanism now served some 16 competent jurisdictions, and had expanded its reach and impact in supporting efforts to hold perpetrators accountable. The delegation further noted that the Mechanism was deepening and intensifying its trusted partnerships with Syrian civil society, Member States and international organizations, thereby fostering collaboration and solidarity in the pursuit of justice. A delegation welcomed the information contained in figure 8.XVI regarding the increasing number of investigations enhanced by the Mechanism's outputs.

171. The view was expressed that the Syrian people should be heard, and that every individual Syrian victim should have the opportunity to seek justice. A delegation emphasized that accountability and justice were essential to the international community's efforts to ensure that a lasting, United Nations facilitated political process in the Syrian Arab Republic could take hold. In that regard, it was observed that the Mechanism remained at the forefront of this brave work and was integral to ensuring accountability. The delegation stated that without such work, the stable, just, and enduring peace that the Syrian people deserved would remain elusive.

172. Other delegations expressed concern and disappointment that the Mechanism was still included in programme 6, Legal affairs. A delegation stressed that the two Mechanisms were political instruments that did not have consensus and were artificially linked to the programme. The same delegation recalled its proposal to consider the two Mechanisms under a separate programme.

173. A delegation emphasized that the Mechanism was established in violation of international law, in particular in the absence of consent by the Syrian Arab Republic or a resolution of the Security Council adopted pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The delegation further emphasized that its establishment violated the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. The delegation opined that the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly was a departure from the limits of its statutory powers.

174. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation expressed its strong regret that some countries continued to support the financing of both Mechanisms from the regular budget. The delegation reiterated its view that the Mechanism should not be financed from the United Nations budget and noted that there was limited reporting and a lack of accountability on the use of funds by the Mechanism.

Conclusions and recommendations

175. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [78/244](#), consider the programme plan for programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 7 Economic and social affairs

176. At its 4th meeting, on 14 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 9\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

177. Appreciation for the development of the programme plan for 2025 and the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals was expressed by all delegations that spoke during the meeting. A delegation confirmed trust in the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department, and his team, and recognized that the Department was the key actor driving forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the main entity for economic and social affairs. Another delegation applauded the initiatives implemented by the Department to support those in need and help the global community overcome challenges, such as the pandemic, high cost of living, climate change and other factors affecting quality of life; as well as for the Department’s continued commitment to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Department’s attention to the impact of emerging and ongoing trends, policies and programmes on the poor and most vulnerable communities, especially on women and girls, was also praised, as was the work done to attract sustainable investment to the poorest countries. Another

delegation hoped that the Department would continue to provide strong support to the United Nations in the area of development on the basis of its abilities and functions. The Department was further encouraged to continue to advance its efforts based on the agreed mandates and priorities of the Member States.

178. The discussion then turned to challenges. Delegates were reminded of the 2015 adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the halfway mark to 2030 was last year in 2023. The discussion quickly highlighted that while progress had been made, there were still challenges in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, which were particularly steep for developing countries, many of which were highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Another delegation pointed out that development progress that had been achieved in the field of hunger poverty and inequality had been undone by the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the conflicts and wars around the world.

179. While these challenges were huge and concerned the whole world, countries in the global South were particularly affected. It was admitted that additional efforts were urgently needed to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A commitment was made to getting the Sustainable Development Goals back on track, ensuring the United Nations development system was better able to deliver in line with the priorities of the global South through a cohesive, coherent and transparent approach that reflected global South priorities. In that regard, a review of the effective coordination between the Department, the regional economic commissions, and other United Nations system entities, such as the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account was suggested by a delegation, to ensure greater efficiency and value-add between new and existing initiatives.

180. A delegation appreciated the efforts at the national level to invest in data availability and inclusivity and welcomed the initiative to expand the data indicator base for the Sustainable Development Goals as an asset for more effective analysis and ultimately more effective policy delivery. Monitoring and evaluation was also raised, with a delegate maintaining that the implementation of internal oversight and the strengthening of accountability not only served as self-imposed pressure for continuous work improvement, but also as a way to efficiently utilize valuable resources provided by Member States.

181. The programme plan for 2025 then became the focus of the discussion, with a delegation drawing attention to the inclusion of unclear terminology with regard to vulnerable portions of the population and proposed avoidance of its use in the programme. The same delegation requested that General Assembly resolution 78/162, entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”, and General Assembly resolution 78/135, entitled “Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries”, be included in the section on legislative mandate under subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development. A reference was also made to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 78/165, entitled “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The delegation maintained a cautious approach to the excessive use of the word “crises” and proposed that it be replaced by “challenges” or “risks” in paragraphs 9.20, 9.21, 9.26, 9.59, 9.85, 9.86; in planned result 2 in subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development; and tables 9.2 and 9.3, citing that the language, which while appropriate for political declarations, could create an artificial focus concerning the practical work of the Department, and referred to the more balanced language in table 9.23 and in the planned result for 2024, where the term “challenges” was used. It was suggested the Department adhere to the existing rules

and procedures concerning the involvement of non-governmental participants in intergovernmental negotiations, referencing table 9.22.

182. The United Nations strategy on water and sanitation, mandated by General Assembly resolution [77/334](#), entitled “Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”, following the 2023 conference on the matter, was raised by a delegation with an expectation that the important mandate would be addressed under subprogramme 3, Sustainable development, and referenced under other programmes per its cross-sector relevance to all members of the UN-Water and the United Nations development system at all levels.

183. Increased visibility for the private sector at the Sustainable Development Forum was proposed. In that context, the delegation requested additional information regarding paragraph 9.46 under subprogramme 3, Sustainable development, on the holding of the Sustainable Development Goals business forum and inquired as to how the initiative would relate to the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair being organized for the sidelines of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

184. A delegation asked about a reference, in the programme of work under subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy, to resolution [78/162](#), entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”, which mandated the development of a response plan for the needs of middle-income countries, as the delegation was ready to propose relevant language under that subprogramme.

185. A delegation commended the work under subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government, as well as the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and the Internet Governance Forum. The same delegation questioned the focus of the work on enhancing capacity, specifically for one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, namely combating climate change, which was evident in paragraphs 9.102 and 9.103 and in table 9.23, and inquired if the Department received requests from Member States to improve the quality of their State institutions’ work. The delegation offered the example of combating poverty or ensuring dignified work for their citizens. In the same vein, the 2022 performance measure under result 3: national implementation of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to enhance trust in public institutions in table 9.24, the same delegation requested that the reference to “public officials providing long terms needs of future generations” be replaced with language agreed by Committee for Programme and Coordination, such as “long term sustainable development objectives”.

186. The topic of forests under subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management, was raised by a delegation with reference to the midterm evaluation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the international arrangement on forests, the recent nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the declaration of the high-level segment of the session. The delegation stated concerns that the nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests indicated that the United Nations was “off track” to reach the global forest goals and forest related targets of the 2030 Agenda, reiterated their cruciality for addressing many global challenges, and proposed including the strategic plan for forests in the programme plan for 2025, perhaps under paragraph 9.8 (d) by inserting “The United Nations strategic plan on Forests” after the words “climate action, financing for sustainable development”.

187. The delegate expressed that the United Nations strategic plan for Forests, adopted by the General Assembly, was unique and addressed the whole United Nations system and other international organizations urging for more coherence concerning international forest related activities on conservation, restoration and the sustainable management of forests, referenced in paragraph 9.9 as the Collaborative

Partnership on Forests. The delegation further suggested that international coordination within the Department, given its cross-cutting role on all the Sustainable Development Goals, not only Sustainable Development Goal 15, could get the plan back on track and upscale coherent and global action on forests.

188. The importance of the Department's work on forests was reiterated by another delegate, who noted the assessment of the contribution of forests to counter climate change cited in paragraph 9.112.

189. The Department was asked how the proposed work of subprogramme 9, Financing for sustainable development, could bring more focus to that issue, given that there was a commonly known vast and growing financing gap in developing countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

190. **The Committee commended the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its work supporting the development pillar of the United Nations and welcomed its efforts in coordinating actions for eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities within and among countries, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and promoting opportunities and progress towards sustainable development for all, leaving no one behind.**

191. **The Committee emphasized the role a programmatic and results-based approach to budgeting played in ensuring accountability for delivering results and noted the need for improvements in the Department's programme plan to ensure planned results and performance indicators were more specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.**

192. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Department to continue to use technology in its work.**

193. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Department to ensure that the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the sustainable development commitments was coherent and consistent with the existing mandate of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.**

194. **The Committee reiterated the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the operational activities, outputs and outcomes of the Department in line with the relevant mandates.**

195. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 9.3

After "in addition to longer-term threats and challenges, such as", insert "extreme poverty, hunger,".

Paragraph 9.7

After "countries in Africa," insert "as well as middle-income countries,".

Paragraph 9.8 (c)

Replace “intersectional” with “comprehensive”.

Paragraph 9.8 (d)

After “climate action, financing for sustainable development,”, insert “the United Nations strategic plan for forests, ” .

Paragraph 9.8 (e)

Replace “with a focus on countries in Africa and countries in special situations” with “with a focus on countries in Africa and countries in special situations, as well as middle-income countries”.

Paragraph 9.13

Replace “the Department promotes inclusive social and economic development for all” with “the Department promotes inclusive development for all, in all its three dimensions”.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 6

Economic analysis and policy

General Assembly resolutions

Insert:

78/135 Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

78/162 Development cooperation with middle-income countries

Subprogramme 1

Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development

Paragraph 9.20 (f)

Replace “crises” with “shocks, crises and challenges”.

Paragraph 9.21 (c)

Replace “crises” with “shocks, crises and challenges”.

Subprogramme 6

Economic analysis and policy

Paragraph 9.85 (f)

Replace “shocks and crises” with “shocks, crises and challenges”.

Insert new paragraph 9.85 (k), reading:

Advance the elaboration of a specific response plan, aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries based on their specific challenges and diverse needs.

Paragraph 9.86 (b)

Replace “shocks and crises” with “shocks, crises and challenges”.

Subprogramme 7**Public institutions and digital government****Table 9.24****Column “2022 (actual)”**

Replace “that balance the short-term needs of people today with the longer-term needs of future generations” with “that seek to implement long-term sustainable development”.

Programme 8**Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States**

196. At its 4th meeting, on 14 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 10)).

Discussion

197. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and welcomed the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information in 2023.

198. The fundamental role of the Office to support the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States given the capacity constraints many of them face was emphasized. A delegation noted the importance of the support of the Office to countries in special situations to advance their legitimate development aspirations in all the processes that take place in the organization. The significant milestones in the period 2022–2024, including the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, were highlighted.

199. A delegation recognized efforts to improve coordination across the United Nations system to ensure that the United Nations had the ability to respond effectively to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It was noted that sharing lessons learned and best practices among the three groups of countries was an essential step to further improve coordination and to ensure efficient results that could help further mitigate the needs of the most vulnerable countries. Another delegation welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with the United Nations and Member States to ensure timely graduation for countries categorised as least developed countries. Additional information on the role of the Office to coordinate with United Nations development system entities, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator, was requested.

200. With respect to resource mobilization, the efforts of the Office to strengthen partnerships across the United Nations system and to mobilize private sector resources were commended and recognition of resource mobilization efforts to enable the participation of representatives of countries in special situations in conferences and meetings was expressed. A delegation remarked that the focus on mobilizing

public and private finance demonstrated progress delivered through ambitious collaboration. Another delegation highlighted that its country was the third largest donor of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and its country would support the work and programmatic activities of the Office in the future.

201. It was emphasized that the effective work of the Office was one of the significant factors for the increased efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that tangible progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in countries in special situations could lead to substantial progress towards sustainable development on a global scale. The view was expressed that the Office was a central actor to assist the most vulnerable countries, which was one of the main tasks of the United Nations. A delegation expressed its commitment to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring the United Nations development system was better able to deliver in line with the priorities of the global South. Another delegation expressed the hope that the proposed programme plan for 2025 would help the least developed countries to achieve sustainable development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

202. A delegation welcomed the work of the Office and recognized its paramount importance to ensure tailored support for countries in special situations. The same delegation also welcomed the focus of the Office on analytical work, as mentioned paragraphs 10.19 (b) and 10.32 (b), to ensure that critical data illustrate the realities of countries in special situations. Another delegation requested additional information on how the Office would achieve the planned results and its plans to work with other United Nations system entities. Gratitude was expressed for the logistical and substantive support received for organizing the Latin American regional review meeting of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, which was held in 2023 in Asunción.

203. A delegation remarked that the Office was their country's main international partner to implement the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action and to address the challenges and structural constraints of being landlocked. The leading role of the Office in the consolidation of international efforts for supporting the landlocked developing countries was recognized. The same delegation highlighted its support for strengthened financial and human capacities of the Office, in order to enable proper deliberation of its mandate to coordinate the United Nations system's response to the needs of countries in special situations. In that regard, the delegation highlighted its countries regular voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in support of activities by the Office with a view of strengthening its capacities. The same delegation, as a member of the Bureau of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, committed to work with all interested parties to raise awareness of the systemic vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries and to find joint solutions for their needs. For example, to enhance the global partnership for the better connectivity, the Office and the country jointly organized a ministerial meeting of landlocked developing countries in Yerevan on 14 and 15 December 2023, on the theme "Enhancing equitable, affordable and inclusive transport connectivity as a driver for more sustainable and resilient economies in landlocked developing countries". The view was expressed that for landlocked developing countries in particular, the Office was important for supporting their development priorities, especially in terms of financing for development, improving connectivity and infrastructure, reducing the costs of commercial transactions, and increasing international cooperation, among other efforts aimed at achieving structural transformation. Another delegation urged Member States and the Secretariat to ensure that there were adequate resources, both for the execution of its programmes and in terms of officials, to continue to provide,

and even increase, support that it provides to landlocked developing countries and other groups of countries in special situations.

204. On the matter of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, several delegations expressed their support and noted the postponement of the conference. The importance of reaching an agreement on new dates for the conference and an intergovernmental agreement on a programme of action for the next 10 years was emphasized. Clarification was sought on how the Office would implement activities and support landlocked developing countries in view of potential delays to the adoption of a new programme of action for landlocked developing countries. Another delegation noted the financial support provided by its country for organizing the conference.

205. With regard to the strategy and external factors for 2025, a delegation, speaking on behalf of a group of delegations, requested information on the approach for a renewed global partnership to strengthen structural transformation and resource mobilization to strengthen engagement in vulnerable countries, as cited in the report (paras. 10.3–10.6). With regard to paragraph 10.3, a delegation welcomed the proposal by the Office to place a sharper focus on the effective implementation in support of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031. It was emphasised that the efforts to focus on the commensurate mobilization of resources for the Doha Programme of Action and for landlocked developing countries should improve access to private investment, a stated priority of the country's Foreign Secretary and the campaign to "promote international development and address critical global challenges". Satisfaction was expressed for meetings of the groups of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States contained in table 10.1. The importance to having the voices of countries in special situations heard in global deliberations to deepen understanding of the realities on the ground and to ensure stronger alignment of subsequent intergovernmental activity was also emphasized. The same delegation reiterated their commitment to ensure the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States had their voices heard.

206. A delegation expressed its support for subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, and indicated that it reflects a full range of measures to implement the Doha Programme of Action, including promoting economic growth, development of a modern agricultural sector and industrialization. Another delegation referred to paragraph 10.19 (a) and requested clarification on new proposals as they related to current interventions, including an online university to support graduate and post-graduate education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, an investment support centre, a resilience-building mechanism, a Sustainable Graduation Support Facility, and a system of food stockholding for the least developed countries; and how synergies between new activities and current interventions could be evaluated and improved. A delegation asked whether the Office had considered synergies for other countries in special circumstances, such as fragile and conflict-affected States. Another delegation noted the variety of initiatives cited in subprogramme 1, least developed countries (paras. 10.21 and 10.25) to address the digital divide and requested further information about how the establishment of an online university aimed to reduce the digital divide. The same delegation queried the variance in the number of seminars on partnerships for the least developed countries to strengthen the engagement of stakeholders delivered in 2023 and planned for 2025. In particular, more information was sought on the reason the number of seminars delivered in 2023 was 15 days, which was 13 days higher than the 2023 plan of two days, and why only four days were planned for 2025.

207. On subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, a delegation noted that the planned results did not correspond to the main priorities defined by the Vienna

Program of Action and the main structural vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries including expanded trade volumes, infrastructure projects in a wide range of industries, and deepened regional integration. It was noted that one of the planned results related to climate action was not mentioned in the Vienna Programme of Action and that the issues of climate and energy transition were insufficiently balanced, and that attention should be paid to all environmentally friendly energy sources, including natural gas. A delegation welcomed the lessons learned and planned change reflected in result 3 in subprogramme 2 and emphasized the importance of financing for development initiatives to enhance and develop countries' economic resilience.

208. With reference to subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, a delegation expressed that it could include additional emphasis on disaster risk reduction. A different delegation noted the importance of data driven decisions to address structural vulnerabilities and resilience of small island developing States and requested an update on the establishment of the centre of excellence that would include a small island developing States global data hub. Concern was expressed regarding some of the language contained in subprogramme 3, in particular in paragraphs 10.53 to 10.55, including table 10.14 and suggested that the language seemed to indicate that the establishment of a global data hub would provide analyses and data for use by Member States to inform decision making and development priorities related to access to finance. A delegation expressed that the language as drafted seemed to prejudge the outcome of the intergovernmental process on small island developing States, particularly ongoing discussions on a multidimensional vulnerability index and the use of such information for decision making concerning resource allocation.

Conclusions and recommendations

209. **The Committee commended the continuous efforts of the Office in advocating strongly on behalf of the most vulnerable Member States, in supporting least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and in continuing to forge broad and durable partnerships, including within and outside the United Nations system.**

210. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office to support, consistent with its mandate, the prioritization of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action through mainstreaming its provisions into national strategic plans and mobilizing requisite resources, as well as the inter-agency task force on least developed countries graduation and to further develop its cooperation with resident coordinators.**

211. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office to continue to facilitate the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action as well as decisions of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and increase participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade and to support landlocked developing countries in improving transit transport connectivity and facilitating trade.**

212. **The Committee welcomed the efforts by the Office to advocate for the special case of small island developing States in achieving sustainable development and to support the preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.**

213. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office to assist small island developing States in implementing the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for small island developing States and also through the**

networks of national focal points and with due regard to multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential of a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States.

214. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 10.54

Replace the first sentence with the following:

The lesson for the subprogramme was that evidence to support the policymaking processes, in particular for sustainable development and climate change, was often reconstructed and consolidated from wider data sets, including broader developing country categories and/or geographical groupings. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will work towards assisting small island developing States in strengthening their statistical offices and to enhance support in developing national capacities for improved data collection and statistical analysis including high-quality and disaggregated data.

Table 10.14

Replace the text of the 2025 planned performance measure with the following:

The small island developing States global data hub provides analytics and data that Member States may use to inform decision-making process related to sustainable development and climate change, among others based on their development priorities

Programme 9

United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation

Commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063

215. At its 14th meeting, on 22 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)).

Discussion

216. Delegations expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the committed work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Global Communications in preparing the proposed programme plan for 2025, which was recognized as comprehensive, responsive, coordinated and more strategic and coherent. The consistent focus of the programme on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 was welcomed.

217. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the United Nations to further advance its work in Africa to realize its potential for sustainable socioeconomic

development, durable peace and lasting prosperity, in support of Agenda 2063. Delegations expressed the view that strong collaboration between African States and the African Union on one hand, and the United Nations on the other hand, would advance the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the achievement of tangible results. In recognition of the important role envisaged by the United Nations in supporting Agenda 2063, delegations called upon the main stakeholders to join their efforts towards facilitating a greater contribution of the United Nations in assisting African States in implementing Agenda 2063 and achieving social and economic development. It was further stressed that the programme played a critical role in advancing the support between the United Nations and the African Union for reinforcing frameworks such as the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and strategic collaboration on various critical issues. The importance of that partnership and support could not be overemphasized.

218. Based on the second continental report on the implementation of Agenda 2063, published by the African Union Development Agency, it was emphasized that significant disparities existed in the implementation of the goals of Agenda 2063 across African countries. It was pointed out that at the end of the first year of the 10-year implementation plan 2014–2023, only 10 countries had been able to implement at least 50 per cent of the goals, while 11 countries had an implementation rate of 30 per cent or less. That indicated that the continent's debt burden continued to significantly affect the implementation of the goals and sustainable development. Delegations expressed concern that the continent's debt was at its highest level in over a decade, with over 20 low-income African countries either at risk of distress or already in distress. In that context, the proposal to address the root causes of debt unsustainability, as part of the strategy for 2025, was welcomed (para. 11.2).

219. A delegation commended the continent's commitment to accelerating the establishment of its own financial institutions to address the existing challenges of the current global financial architecture, which did not favour the continent's transformation and development needs. Another delegation stated that once issues related to mobilization of domestic resources, access to energy and digitalization of services for revenue generation were improved, Africa would not only be equipped to generate more domestic resources that could contribute to substantial financial support for its development agenda, but would also be able to achieve sustainable development that would ensure good governance and deliver peace. It was observed that targeting some of the key areas identified in consultation with African States and stakeholders, as indicated in paragraph 11.5 of the strategy for 2025, was essential for achieving Agenda 2063.

220. A delegation emphasized its support for the programme and the promotion of concepts that would strengthen the continent's role as a key global player and its development, such as mobilizing domestic resources, ensuring access to energy sources and digitalization. Noting that it was essential to include the views of African countries when adopting intergovernmental documents and decisions, the delegation indicated that it had developed close partnerships with African States. The African Union and the regional economic communities were key partners for achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. Taking into account the leading role played by Africa in consolidating and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the delegation noted the efforts made to bolster and expand open, honest and constructive partnerships with African countries. To mark the anniversary of the founding of the African Union and to ease the debt burden of African States, at the end of 2023, the delegation had forgiven debts amounting to \$23 billion. The delegation expressed its

continued commitment to contributing in a tangible manner to solving such issues as energy security and misinformation and disinformation in Africa.

221. Appreciation was expressed for the shared strategic vision of the programme in driving the development of Africa with the support of the international system, with a view to becoming a continent of hope, opportunity and prosperity. In addition, the delegation stressed its support for mobilizing the United Nations system, African States, the international community and the private sector at the global and regional levels around the African Union's transformative vision. The delegation also expressed its appreciation at the fact that the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the first ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 had been recognized by the Executive Council of the African Union and that the formulation of the second ten-year plan had begun. The delegation stressed the need to take quick actions and to focus on implementation, which was the key to its success. The delegation, which was the world's largest developing country, emphasized its friendship and cooperation with Africa and its commitment to work with African countries to champion peace, development and cooperation.

222. Another delegation said that the proposed programme aspirations, including strengthened coordination, coherence and alignment of the United Nations presence in Africa and support for the African Union, would help to ensure a more cohesive and efficient approach to policy delivery across the continent. The significant efforts of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to strengthen the operationalization of its data function and its capacity to use data to underpin its advisory advocacy communications and monitoring functions were applauded. The delegation asked about the principal challenges hindering the implementation of commitments related to the continent's development and reiterated its steadfast commitment to getting the Sustainable Development Goals back on track in Africa.

223. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the implementation of the mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and that much work was needed to get back on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. A delegation emphasized that the Goals could not be achieved without the support of the entire multilateral and international system within and beyond the United Nations, and without innovative and inclusive partnerships. In addition, the participation of regional and local actors, including civil society, the private sector, academia and community leaders, would be required. The delegation called for increased participation of African youth in policymaking. Given the impact of the pandemic on programme implementation, a delegation wondered whether it was realistic to expect that the proposed programme plan would be implemented in 2025 and asked about measures to compensate for setbacks.

224. With respect to the recommendations contained in the triennial review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), several delegations commended the conclusions of the review, as it allowed the Committee to better understand the ambitions and goals of Agenda 2063 while highlighting the continent's full engagement in achieving its destiny. According to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, all OIOS recommendations had been implemented. In that context, delegations asked about the improvements in programme delivery as a result of the reform of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and requested additional details on the main outcomes. In selecting the focus of the results of the three subprogrammes, delegations appreciated the relevance of that achievement and the increased integration among the subprogrammes. A delegation, noting that one of the indicators that the OIOS review had included to assess programme integration had been the establishment of reporting lines that facilitated the delivery of the programme strategy, sought clarification regarding whether the level of accountability had been reached by the Special Adviser on Africa over the programme of work and

resources for the whole programme. Regarding the two mandates provided in General Assembly resolution [78/263](#), a delegation asked how those mandates had been interpreted in relation to the proposed plan and the functions of staff, and requested additional information on the initiatives of the programme. The delegation recalled that a recommendation had been made the previous year on the establishment of structured and regular meetings with the Group of African States in New York in order to improve the coordination of the United Nations contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063. Clarification was sought on what steps had been taken to address that recommendation and the role played by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in respect to the establishment of the two new strategic coordination mechanisms with the African Union.

225. Clarification was sought regarding the strategy for 2025 (para. 11.4), which was intended to promote a new narrative through coordinated and complementary action, and discussion in various areas, including science and technology, innovation, industrialization and trade. Specifically, information was requested on the operational modalities for consultation between the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Group of African States in New York. While the proposed establishment of a fellowship for young African scholars was welcomed (para. 11.14 (h)), a delegation asked whether that could be dealt with in a separate subprogramme, to enable the Office to better supervise the involvement of young Africans in various United Nations programmes. Additional information on the fellowship programme and details of the new activities were also requested. A delegation asked whether the African ambassadors in New York had been involved in the consultations and substantive activities in 2023. The same delegation reiterated its call for regular structured meetings with African ambassadors in New York in order to ensure the coordination of United Nations activities in support of Agenda 2063 and asked how many meetings had been held with the ambassadors in 2023, as well as what was planned for 2025. Delegations expressed concern that document [A/79/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#) was incomplete as part B of the proposed programme plan for 2025 relating to resources was missing, and said that it was important for the Committee to have the tools necessary to appreciate the efficiency of each programme.

226. Regarding subprogramme 1, Data and knowledge management for evidence-based policies and advocacy in support of Agenda 2063, a delegation expressed support for the intention to establish a fellowship programme for young African scholars and to engage in new initiatives with partners to strengthen institutional capacities and policy analysis, design and monitoring. Information was sought regarding the strategy of the Office and the new initiatives mentioned in paragraph 11.14 (h). The delegation also requested an update on the status of implementation of the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly to advance domestic resource mobilization and unlock financing for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as mentioned in table 11.4 under result 3. Without the reform of the global financial architecture, as reflected in paragraph 11.22, the full implementation of Agenda 2063 would remain a mirage. To that end, the recognition of the hindrances to the achievement of Agenda 2063 was welcomed.

227. In relation to subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, a delegation commended the focus on long-term strategies for debt management in the context of high and rapidly growing debt-to-GDP ratios (para. 11.35, result 3). In reference to a lesson learned regarding short-term focused fiscal policies without sufficient consideration for debt sustainability in the medium or long term, a delegation welcomed the insight into the programme's proposed choice of instruments to address that challenge, notably actions relating to policy advice and technical assistance through dialogue and workshops. Recognizing the existing

capacity of local African macro policy expertise and local African leadership, as well as the short-term pressures from immediate economic priorities in African countries, a delegation asked whether the Office had considered a model focused on catalysing systemic incentives and institutions to help drive a shift towards more strategic policymaking through changes in institutional capacity and through stimuli rather than focusing solely on advice and technical assistance. In addition, recognizing the limits to the influence of the programme in a complex environment and the many factors beyond the programme's control, in reference to figure 11.IV under result 3, clarification was sought regarding whether the Office might consider adding reduction in debt-to-GDP ratio as an important indicator of progress, in addition to the number of States that developed longer-term strategies to manage debt in an integrated manner, as currently proposed. The importance of sharing information on the African perspective and understanding of sustainable development with global audiences was emphasized.

228. With respect to subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of Agenda 2063, clarification was sought regarding paragraph 11.44, under result 1, and the effect of climate change on African countries, given that Africa was home to the second largest forested area on the planet. In reference to paragraph 11.46, under result 2, a delegation pointed out that the results obtained in 2023 regarding increased public awareness of peace and security issues in Africa were not very good. With respect to figure 11.VII, clarification was sought regarding why the number of plays of Africa Renewal audio stories had increased from about 400 in 2023 to 7,000 in 2024, yet were expected to decline to 2,000 in 2025. Clarification was also sought regarding the plan of the Office to improve the situation in 2025. A delegation also asked about the number of Africans working in the Department for Global Communications, under subprogramme 3.

Conclusions and recommendations

229. **The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa for its successful implementation of the new management model and realignment in achieving programmatic objectives and noted the positive impact evidenced by the OIOS triennial review and the enhanced data capacities and evidence-based policy advice.**

230. **The Committee took note of the efforts made by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to United Nations support to Africa and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to improve coherence and synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, particularly through a consistent partnership based on the strategic objectives of the second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.**

231. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to continue implementing its strategic agenda focused on six cluster areas: shifting the paradigm on financing for development; achieving sustainable development to deliver durable peace; governance, resilience and human capital; science, technology and innovation; industrialization, the demographic dividend and trade, with a focus on the African Continental Free Trade Area; and a balanced energy mix and climate adaptation.**

232. **The Committee appreciated that special attention would be given to promoting youth-focused policies and proposals under each cluster area, considering the crucial role that young people played in the continent's development.**

233. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the architecture of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was fit for purpose and able to achieve the objectives assigned to programme 9 following the widening of the scope of cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations indicated by the change of name of the programme, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its sixty-first session and approved by the Assembly.

234. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to request the Office of the Special Adviser and other concerned Departments and United Nations entities to work towards the acceleration of the implementation of Agenda 2063 by establishing key performance indicators and developing activities that reflected the support provided by the United Nations to Africa in areas of priority within the second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 so that the plan reflected and strengthened the role of Africa as a key stakeholder and a vital player in the global arena.

235. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report, at its next session, on the structured and regular meetings held with the ambassadors of the Group of African States in New York in order to consolidate the coordination of United Nations activities in Africa and improve on the United Nations contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063.

236. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposal submitted by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to cooperate with the African Peer Review Mechanism and further recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its eighty-second session, a review of its implementation, including recommendations on the way forward.

237. The Committee welcomed the fellowship programme for young African policymakers in the 2025 programme plan and recommended that the General Assembly approve it and request the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its eighty-second session a report on the first two years of implementation.

238. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme budget for 2025.

Programme 10

Trade and development

239. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 12\)](#) and [A/79/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

240. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the proposed programme plan and programme performance information. Several delegations stressed the importance of the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) and expressed support for the proposed programme plan. A delegation expressed appreciation for the timeliness of the reports.

241. Delegations noted that 2024 was the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of UNCTAD and expressed their congratulations. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of UNCTAD and ITC. A delegation voiced its firm support for the work of UNCTAD and ITC in seeking to find consensus on matters related to resilient, sustainable and inclusive development. A delegation emphasized the unique nature of the role of UNCTAD in building consensus among countries and providing technical assistance and in its analytical work. Another delegation commended UNCTAD and ITC for their work on the inclusion of enterprises within the countries in their efforts to foster integration into international trade.

242. The importance of the commitment of UNCTAD to safeguarding the interests of developing countries and the role that UNCTAD played in promoting trade and development in developing countries and North-South dialogue and as a think tank for developing countries were cited by a delegation. Another delegation expressed its commitment to supporting UNCTAD in the integration of developing countries into the global economy so that they could benefit from trading opportunities.

243. A delegation highlighted the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation and geopolitical tensions, suggesting that those factors had exacerbated economic vulnerability for developing countries. Several delegations recognized the importance of achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth. Another delegation emphasized the importance of maintaining the competitive advantage of UNCTAD on issues of trade and development and related issues of financing, investment, entrepreneurship, raw materials and technology. The delegation also said that the global context had changed dynamically, and thus cooperation in those areas had also changed, with new challenges requiring swift responses.

244. A delegation expressed the view that the emphasis of the Bridgetown Covenant on transforming economies through diversification and sustainable growth was crucial as it sought to reduce countries' dependency on the trade in commodities and broaden their economic base. Furthermore, the UNCTAD programme was intended to increase the participation of developing countries in international trade, fostering structural transformation through economic diversification, which would boost export potential and deepen integration into global value chains.

245. With regard to the full and beneficial integration of all countries in the global economy, a delegation stressed the importance of integration as a factor in the advancement of peaceful and sustainable development for all Member States.

246. A delegation highlighted the quality and timely preparation of information and statistical products of UNCTAD, which served as a valuable basis for negotiations and consensus-building in New York. The delegation said that it counted on the impartiality, objectivity and scientific validity of UNCTAD analysis.

247. The fundamental importance of international cooperation for development and the strengthening of synergies with strong linkages between global, regional and local systems was emphasized by a delegation.

248. A delegation emphasized that having a cross-cutting gender perspective in all trade issues was an indispensable requirement for development. Another delegation expressed support for its country's partnership on trade and gender, welcoming the mainstreaming of gender considerations throughout the programme and the specific provisions within the proposed programme plan for UNCTAD.

249. With regard to climate change, a delegation expressed the view that integrating inclusiveness and environmental sustainability into global trade and development frameworks was important for the resilience and continued economic growth of developing countries and that enhancing climate resilience, scaling up climate finance and promoting sustainable investments stressed the priority of achieving climate-resilient development. Another delegation said that excessive attention had been paid in the programme to climate change issues, including the energy transition and assistance with more active implementation of nationally determined contributions in fulfilment of the Paris Agreement. The delegation also expressed the view that the consideration of that issue should occur in strict alignment with the mandate of UNCTAD. For example, UNCTAD, in the context of its forthcoming analysis of the link between trade development and environmental conservation, could focus more on the emerging economy and climate protectionism and its possible repercussions for developing countries, many of which already had low potential in terms of access to international markets.

250. A delegation expressed its support for the programme's focus on frontier issues, such as digital trade and investment, as key drivers of future economic opportunity. Another delegation recognized that, while innovation could give rise to opportunities to create well-being, the fast pace of digital change could be a challenge for developing countries.

251. A delegation expressed appreciation for the programme's support for technology and logistics as contributing factors to efforts to harness the potential of e-commerce and digital trade. The delegation recalled that it was one of the 12 countries where port entities had adopted policy measures to improve resilience by enhancing the skills and capacities of practitioners with the aim of ensuring efficient port management to increase trade flows and create port networks.

252. With regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a delegation emphasized that it was important for UNCTAD to focus on its three pillars of policy analysis and research, intergovernmental consultations and technical cooperation to promote trade and economic development in all Member States, developing countries in particular, to support accelerated implementation.

253. With regard to unilateral coercive measures, a delegation noted that the programme plan lacked any plans to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the impact of such measures on trade and development. The delegation recalled that that issue had been repeatedly raised by a number of States, including at the eighty-seventh session of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance of UNCTAD, held in Geneva. The delegation expressed the view that studying that issue in the context of international trade, as well as the repercussions of the use of such measures for developing countries, would align with the mandate of UNCTAD and be in keeping with the spirit and letter of the Bridgetown Covenant. Another delegation expressed concern about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures and sought further clarification from UNCTAD. The delegation also expressed concern that there was no specific paragraph in the programme plan related to such measures and the impact of technological monopolies and unilateral coercive embargoes on the supply chain of global products and services. The delegation also said that unilateral economic, financial or trade measures invariably disrupted trade flows, exacerbated poverty and hindered development efforts in targeted countries and that such measures constituted a violation of the principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law, as well as the values of multilateralism and fundamental norms of international relations.

254. A delegation recalled that, in the review of the results of the performance of UNCTAD for 2023, there was no information about the implementation of the

Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the delegation recalled that \$2.3 million had been allocated from the United Nations regular budget in 2023 for that programme and that the Memorandum would be in force through 2025; the delegation further noted that the tasks for ensuring its fulfilment had not been included in the programme plan for 2025, with anticipated continuation of the appropriate financing.

255. With regard to paragraph 12.5, a delegation noted that UNCTAD would be guided by four major transformations, including transforming multilateralism, which was a key planning assumption.

256. With regard to paragraph 12.11, a delegation welcomed the ongoing collaboration between UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to support the integration of developing countries into the global trading system. In the view of the delegation, the recent accessions of the Comoros and Timor-Leste to WTO at its thirteenth Ministerial Conference demonstrated the forum's value for non-members, notably those described as least developed countries.

257. The same delegation described paragraph 12.12 (c), "there is political will to achieve consensus in intergovernmental meetings", as a key planning assumption underpinning the budget, saying that the outcome of the thirteenth Ministerial Conference of WTO cast considerable doubt upon the assumption that there was political will from all and that that situation impeded the ability of multilateral bodies to make progress. The delegation said that it supported the ambition but was cautious about being optimistic, given the failure to agree on Sustainable Development Goal-related items at the Ministerial Conference (i.e. the lack of agreement on fisheries subsidies), and asked on what basis UNCTAD assessed those planning assumptions regarding the prevailing political context as realistic.

258. With regard to subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, paragraph 12.21 (f), a delegation sought further details as to how UNCTAD would analyse the relationship between trade and development and the environment and propose sustainable development policies in line with paragraph 75 of the Bridgetown Covenant.

259. With regard to subprogramme 2, Investment and enterprise, result 2, "Investment financing strategies and tools to decouple economic growth from environment degradation", a delegation asked why UNCTAD had decided to refrain from using in the title the expression used elsewhere in the text, namely "investment financing strategies and tools in support of the attainment of the climate and environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda".

260. With regard to subprogramme 4, Technology and logistics, result 2, figure 12.V, a delegation enquired about the number of new border regulatory agencies and partner governmental agencies participating in and benefiting from the Automated System for Customs Data Single Window system. The delegation asked why UNCTAD foresaw no increase for 2024 and therefore no new additions to the programme.

261. With regard to subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, paragraph 12.30, result 3, a delegation sought further information and details on the lessons learned concerning enhanced data and enhanced data transparency, and how they should be implemented in practice, such as how the three pilot countries were identified.

262. With regard to subprogramme 2, Investment and enterprise, paragraph 12.34 (d), a delegation welcomed the focus on investment promotion and recalled that WTO

members were working to incorporate the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, which should generate significant economic benefits for developing countries.

263. With regard to subprogramme 2, Investment and enterprise, paragraph 12.43, result 3, a delegation welcomed the planned change and asked how UNCTAD would proceed to achieve the objectives set out in that paragraph.

264. With regard to subprogramme 3, International trade and commodities, paragraph 12.47, a delegation expressed appreciation for UNCTAD making institutional reform a priority and support for a peer review for UNCTAD. The delegation also expressed concern that the only reference to the peer review in the proposed programme plan was in paragraph 12.47, but that paragraph did not refer to publications of UNCTAD per se; the delegation asked what steps UNCTAD would take to institute a peer review.

265. With regard to subprogramme 3, International trade and commodities, paragraph 12.48 (h), a delegation expressed the view that the term “environmentally sustainable products” was not intergovernmentally approved. The delegation asked why that term had been used as that use could lead to the imposition of standards on trade that might not be well founded.

266. With regard to subprogramme 4, Technology and logistics, paragraph 12.59, a delegation welcomed the focus on frontier issues, such as digital trade and investment as areas of considerable opportunity. The delegation expressed concern over the firm expiration deadline of the e-commerce moratorium and a consequent risk of increasing barriers to digital trade, noting in particular the potential impact on small and medium enterprises and on women traders, and sought clarification in that regard.

267. With regard to subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, a delegation encouraged UNCTAD to work more closely in 2025 with developing countries, specifically landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

268. Also with regard to subprogramme 5, paragraph 12.73 (e), a delegation expressed appreciation for the technical support provided to least developed countries who had recently graduated or soon would graduate.

269. With regard to subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, delegations expressed support for the ITC programme of work. A delegation said that it viewed ITC as a close and trusted partner. The delegation expressed appreciation for the ability of ITC to innovate and bring realism to key policy instruments such as the country’s new, simpler and more generous Developing Countries Trading Scheme. Another delegation emphasized the unique mandate of ITC within the United Nations and WTO systems and expressed appreciation for the ability of ITC to leverage resources to work on a wide range of important themes, in particular women’s economic empowerment, disability inclusion and more sustainable global and regional value chains.

270. A delegation expressed the view that, for the majority of developing countries, the work of ITC was much needed when it came to building capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises and improving the quality and diversification of their products and easing access to regional and international markets. In that regard, the delegation expressed its expectation that the Centre would continue to pay close attention to those issues in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The same delegation also said that the issue of accessing information on rules and requirements for international market participants was equally important, and, in that regard, expressed support for, in 2025, the task of broadening comprehensive, internationally accessible data systems about trade, including

databases, such as the Sustainability Map, the Market Access Map, the Digital Education Platform and the Trade Academy for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The delegation also noted that a critical goal was making those products more convenient to use for producers and exporters that lacked the skills in international trade and in international economic relations.

271. A delegation expressed support for the work of ITC in areas of trade and capacity-building in developing countries to support developing countries in economic and social development and better implement the 2030 Agenda.

272. With regard to landlocked developing countries, a delegation suggested that ITC should actively participate in 2025 and beyond in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 when it came to the development of export-oriented industries in the areas of services, agriculture and the creative economy.

273. The view was expressed that ITC should strengthen its aid for trade cooperation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition and thereby assist developing countries to expand their exports and improve their imports. Another delegation stressed the importance of ITC capacity-building for small and medium-sized enterprises, and improving the quality and diversification of their products, as well as easing access to regional and international markets. In that context, it was expected that the Centre would continue to pay close attention to those issues in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

274. A delegation said that it would work collaboratively with ITC on issues related to e-commerce and digital trade and on further developing tools that addressed sustainable growth and climate change and provided market access information for the private sector.

275. A delegation recalled that the question of digital inclusion and connectivity, including for entrepreneurs in developing countries, was a principal objective of its country's digital development strategy. The delegation asked about progress towards the ITC goal of tripling the number of micro-, small and medium enterprises supported to compete digitally by 2025.

276. In reference to paragraph 13.8, a delegation expressed appreciation for the open approach of ITC to developing additional partnerships with relevant stakeholders, as well as the continued focus on women and trade.

277. With regard to paragraph 13.12 (d), a delegation expressed appreciation for the recognition of the Trade Partnerships Programme and for the fact that the 2023 evaluation had informed the 2025 programme of work. The delegation emphasized that partnership with ITC helped it to understand what businesses needed to take full advantage of preferential access to its markets.

278. A delegation, in reference to result 1, paragraph 13.17, and result 2, paragraph 13.19, asked why there were such large differences between the planned target and the actual achievement.

279. With regard to paragraph 13.21, a delegation requested further information on the effective functioning of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the nature of the partnership between ITC and the African Economic Community. The delegation also sought more specific details on the number of companies with specific examples by subregion. Further information was sought on the work of ITC to ensure that fair assistance was provided to all of the African economic communities in all areas of activity that its mandate covered.

Conclusions and recommendations

280. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [78/244](#), consider the programme plan for programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 11 Environment

281. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 14\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

282. Delegations expressed support for the leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and commended the comprehensive proposed programme plan, which would play a paramount role in helping Member States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several delegations underscored the crucial role played by UNEP in addressing the intertwined crises and reiterated support for its efforts to create a healthy and sustainable environment in focusing on areas such as climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, pollution and waste, digital connectivity and environmental governance. A delegation stated that tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution required coordinated and enhanced international cooperation with a sense of urgency, while another delegation stated that the programme plan provided a clear picture of the goals accomplished and the challenges faced. Yet another delegation pointed out that the work of UNEP was at the forefront of global efforts to address pressing environmental needs. In commending the work of UNEP, a delegation stated that it valued the expertise and support that UNEP gave to Member States with regard to environmental sustainability, as well as its contribution to the achievement of mandated activities for the realization of environmental standards.

283. A delegation indicated that it attached great importance to the presence of UNEP in Nairobi and advocated for and promoted the strengthening of the role UNEP played as the leading global environmental authority and as a champion for global environment policy. The delegation further advocated for the consolidation of the headquarters functions of UNEP in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

284. A delegation shared the view that UNEP had a crucial role to play in supporting Member States in the development and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes to strengthen the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, and also to address the crises of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste, through transformative multi-stakeholder actions that targeted the root causes or the drivers of climate change. The same delegation expressed its support for the crucial work of UNEP and for addressing the challenges faced during its efforts to achieve the deliverables and performance indicators outlined in the programme plan. The delegation sought further information on the challenges faced in each of the seven subprogrammes to which the Committee should pay attention.

285. A delegation appreciated the updating of the language of the programme plan to reflect intergovernmentally agreed language. The delegation further stated that the work of the Committee should focus more clearly on the actual improvement of the programme narrative rather than becoming entangled in political discussions.

286. A delegation pointed out that UNEP should continue to announce its actions to address the interconnected and multifaceted crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and persistent pollution. The delegation recognized the contribution of the actions of UNEP to environmental multilateralism, as the past few years had been marked by truly significant achievements, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. The same delegation added that the challenges ahead for the international community were to, by end of the year, establish a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, as mandated by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 5/14 and to set up a new science-policy panel to manage chemicals and waste and prevent pollution, as mandated by the Assembly in its resolution 5/8. The delegation reaffirmed its support for UNEP as it continued to trace the pathway of enhanced synergies, cooperation and collaboration to implement the commitments under the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments, thereby contributing to effective implementation of international financial environmental policies and agreements delivering global environmental benefits for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Further, the delegation expressed support for advocacy by UNEP for enhanced transparency with regard to the obligations of countries under the Paris Agreement, and urged UNEP to strive to do so more accurately, considering the alarming findings of the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, namely, that limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius required deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

287. Several delegations underscored the critical role of subprogramme 1, Climate action. While noting that the work of UNEP was the driver of global efforts towards a more sustainable and resilient future, a delegation underscored the critical role of the subprogramme in supporting countries to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Those efforts, the delegation added, were aimed at improving resilience against extreme climate change while, at the same time, contributing to sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. According to the same delegation, by integrating climate action into the broader Sustainable Development Goals, UNEP must ensure that initiatives were both comprehensive and impactful. Another delegation made it clear that, in addition to supporting the Goals, climate action should contribute to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and limiting warming to 1.5° Celsius. The same delegation supported investments in clean energy technologies, including low-emission and low-carbon technologies, to help reach net-zero global emissions by mid-century or before.

288. A delegation shared the view that the provision of means of implementation, including technological support to developing countries, must be a priority, as the climate crisis continued to be a critical and pressing issue. The delegation recalled losses of over \$30 billion, with 33 million people affected, across Pakistan caused by devastating floods in 2022 and noted that country's efforts to build back better and greener based on climate-resilient infrastructure, guided by the vision of resilient recovery, rehabilitation and a reconstruction framework.

289. A delegation reaffirmed its support for global climate action and international cooperation based on the established principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and noted that respective capabilities must be stepped

up. The gap between the global climate finance commitments and their implementation needed to be narrowed. The same delegation stressed the importance of strengthened resilience and increased progress in achieving sustainable socioeconomic development at the national level, and in that regard stated that the delegation's country would continue to give priority attention to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The delegation expressed the hope that the proposed programme plan would enable UNEP to support Member States in those areas more effectively. With reference to paragraph 14.3 of the proposed programme plan, the delegation requested that the Secretariat shed some light on its plan to target the root causes and drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss.

290. A delegation observed that the 2030 Agenda was an integrated, holistic approach guided by the core principles of the Organization and shared the view that tackling the environmental dimension must be done in a balanced manner. The same delegation noted that the adverse effects of climate change were becoming more concrete and pointed to flooding in the south of Brazil, the worst in that country's history, which had claimed lives, displaced and disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people and had a negative impact on the economy. The delegation called for the international community to act and strengthen its efforts to combat that phenomenon.

291. A delegation referenced paragraph 14.17 of the proposed programme plan and noted that there were five areas of action mentioned and that several of the terms mentioned were only part of the Global Cooling Pledge, in particular its nature-based solutions. The delegation expressed the view that a broader approach that was more all-encompassing should have been used.

292. A delegation expressed support for the mandate and related activities of UNEP and reaffirmed its commitment to combating the issues of climate change, especially considering its national geographical features. The delegation stressed the importance of the exchange of information and cooperation among Member States. It stated that addressing climate change, climate action and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were vital for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Further, the same delegation pointed to oceans, water management, bioagriculture and renewable energies as key areas of focus with regard to disaster management, and noted that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 coincided with the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements. The same delegation stressed the need to preserve the environment while noting common but differentiated responsibilities.

293. Several delegations lauded the gender-sensitive approach of UNEP to climate action and pointed out that women and girls played a critical role in addressing the climate crisis. A delegation expressed the view that climate change did not affect women and men equally, as women suffered disproportionate impacts and faced barriers in accessing climate decision-making. Despite those challenges, the delegation explained, women and girls around the world were leading the way in mitigating, adapting to and addressing the impacts of climate change. Women and girls, in all their diversity, brought fresh perspectives, skills and talents to climate mitigation, an area in which innovative and sustainable clean energy solutions were needed to transform the high-emitting global energy sector. Another delegation valued as fundamental the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in environmental issues, as it believed that women and girls suffered the most from the effects of climate change. Another delegation recognized the role of gender in climate considerations.

294. A delegation lauded subprogramme 2, Digital transformations in supporting environmental action, for promoting continuous innovation and collaboration, key tools for safeguarding the planet for future generations by enabling support for conservation, protection, restoration, data systems and sustainable management of

natural resources, including land and water. The same delegation welcomed the objective to enhance the use of data analytics on environmental issues and underscored that this would allow for more effective policies, decisions, actions and investments to leverage the digital transformation as an enabling tool to support sustainable economies and societies by bridging existing digital divides, thereby improving research, innovation and equal access to environmental information. The delegation added that UNEP should continue its work to enhance coverage of early warning in order to facilitate the ability of countries to forestall and minimize risks arising from climate change, nature, biodiversity loss and pollution. That, the delegation continued, was in line with the Early Warnings for All initiative of the Secretary-General and would enhance the transition of early warnings into early action by linking risks to solutions and their investment potentials.

295. A delegation welcomed the objective of subprogramme 4, Environmental governance, which supported countries in achieving environmental policy coherence and having a strong legal and institutional framework for implementation of environmental goals, as mandated by the special session to commemorate UNEP@50. The delegation recognized the importance of fostering environmental rule of law and effective international governmental governance through multilateral processes, as well as the crucial importance of effective domestic legal frameworks and governance structures for promoting compliance with obligations and international environmental law and for delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation referenced result 1 of subprogramme 4, Environmental governance, and the problem of illegal waste trafficking, in particular in the case of Asia-Pacific. The delegation noted the initiatives for capacity-building of some country representatives and asked whether UNEP was also considering taking action aimed at stopping waste trafficking at the source, as was done with drug trafficking.

296. Regarding subprogramme 5, Chemicals and pollution action, a delegation referred to result 3, adoption of circular economy policies and practices in high-impact sectors to reduce pollution, and posited that it highlighted the need to further develop actions related to high-impact value chains and sectors such as critical minerals and materials, as well as to enhance collective trust.

297. A delegation underscored that, over the years, UNEP had played a critical role in the provision of evidence-based assessments to underpin policy debate, as well as in environmental monitoring and assessment for a strong science-policy practice, considering the essential role of data flows in that context. In that regard, the delegation welcomed the new global data strategy launched by UNEP and considered it as an essential step for enforcing scientific evidence in the science-policy interface. The delegation also expressed its support for the preparation of the seventh edition of the *Global Environmental Outlook*, the global rationale and methodological approach of which would strengthen the dialogue among the social, natural sciences and policy communities. Another delegation welcomed the science, policies and programmes aimed at bridging the gap between scientific research and environmental policymaking to enhance evidence-based decisions for sustainable development.

298. While noting the significant role and focus of UNEP, a delegation expressed support for the objectives of the current medium-term strategy of UNEP for the period 2022–2025. The delegation recognized the importance of the organization in focusing global efforts to address environmental degradation and crisis, including in support of the 2030 Agenda, including by delivering on the environmental dimension. In that regard, the delegation requested comments on the vision and development of the next medium-term strategy and programme of work of UNEP beyond 2025, and for consultations with Member States on draft proposals.

299. The same delegation expressed support for the role of UNEP as an international convener and encouraged UNEP to work on the implementation of resolutions agreed at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which included a resolution on promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally. The delegation then requested comments on the plans of UNEP in that regard.

300. Furthermore, the same delegation reiterated its commitment to combating climate change and mitigating its impacts and pledged to continue to work collaboratively with the organization and Member States to ensure a more sustainable future.

301. A delegation posited that there was no greater long-term challenge confronting the world than climate change and that, therefore, its country had placed ambitious climate action at the centre of its foreign policy, diplomacy and national security. The same delegation applauded the inclusion of persons with disabilities in UNEP programme planning, including by raising awareness of their needs and concerns in its programme and project design, and implementing and tailoring its projects to fit the conditions and needs of local communities.

302. A delegation expressed the view that, given the fact that only 15 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals targets were on track, it was imperative to implement the environmental dimension to advance achievement. In that context, the delegation placed particular emphasis on subprogramme 6, Finance and economic transformations, convinced that a genuine and deep commitment to financing for development must inescapably be focused on the green and blue economies. The same delegation believed that the transition to an economy that contributed to limiting global warming required investments in renewable energies, resilient infrastructure and a just transition.

303. A delegation conveyed that it had consistently opposed environmental alarmism and did not support the concept of a “triple planetary crisis”. The delegation proposed to replace the term “crises” in the text with a more balanced term, such as “challenges”. Moreover, the delegation emphasized that the development of scientific research was the fundamental mandate of UNEP. It believed that there was an urgent need to provide technological assistance to developing countries and that this should be reflected in the programme plan. The delegation also noted that it consistently promoted the implementation of the principle of equitable geographical representation in the work of UNEP and noted that the principle was reflected in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/13.

304. A delegation emphasized its concern about the International Methane Emissions Observatory project, which it stated was being carried out without a corresponding intergovernmental mandate. The delegation added that the approaches implemented within the project’s framework were not recognized as specialized multilateral United Nations mechanisms, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The same delegation noted that UNEP operated with some concepts that were not recognized by the international community, including low-carbon and low-emission behaviour and lifestyles, and advocated for the use of harmonized terminology.

305. A delegation stated that it was advisable to reduce the excessive level of individual consumption in developed countries and that models of consumer economies and cultures placed an excessively detrimental burden on the environment and created a colossal carbon footprint. The delegation noted that developing countries bore the brunt of the burden, as they must extract natural resources and produce the bulk of consumer goods to meet the corresponding demand from developed countries. In addition, the same delegation stated that it was necessary to

contribute to an increase in the service life of consumer goods, as frequent replacement had extremely negative environmental consequences.

306. A delegation highlighted that global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals remained an uphill journey but acknowledged the significant contributions of UNEP to advancing sustainable development. The delegation gave assurance of its support for the mandate of UNEP to rally efforts to protect the shared planet and improve the quality of life without compromising future generations. The delegation suggested that UNEP should also help shape a global framework that ensured the achievement of stronger, greener development.

307. Referencing paragraph 14.46 and figure 14.VI of the proposed programme budget for 2025, a delegation described as impressive and encouraging the anticipated doubling of the number of countries joining the initiative to restore critical marine ecosystems. Overall, the delegation noted that the indicators and strategies all spoke eloquently to the work of UNEP. The delegation requested more detail on that initiative to enhance the restoration and conservation of critical coastal ecosystems.

Conclusions and recommendations

308. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 11, Environment, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 12

Human settlements

309. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information for 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 15)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.52/2024/6).

Discussion

310. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in promoting sustainable urban development. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the role of UN-Habitat in supporting sustainable cities and human settlements and for the presentation of the programme plan for 2025.

311. A delegation commended UN-Habitat for its role in fostering sustainable urbanization and human settlements, as well as its contribution towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation stressed a critical role of UN-Habitat in promoting the importance of urbanization as means to reduce inequality and poverty, and to expand access to affordable housing and basic services. The delegation welcomed the initiative to prioritize the living standards of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees, to integrate disability inclusion, to prioritize the rights of persons with disabilities and to include gender-based approach in pursuing environmental sustainability.

312. A delegation stressed the essential role of the work of UN-Habitat in advancing the three pillars of sustainable development in areas such as housing, digital transformation, urban climate change action and the fight against all forms of

inequalities, as cities and human settlements were the focus of crises and multidimensional challenges, and at the same time a fundamental component for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation described UN-Habitat as its Government's key strategic partner when it came to strengthening socially just, ecologically sustainable and climate friendly urban development. Another delegation highlighted that its country had benefited from the work of UN-Habitat.

313. A delegation listed examples of interventions of UN-Habitat that brought about positive changes at the community, local and national government levels. The delegation referred to subprogramme 1, where UN-Habitat indicated that it had made notable contributions in water sanitation and hygiene to the Global Water Operator's Partnerships Alliance, hosted by the delegation's Government. The delegation further referred to subprogramme 3, where UN-Habitat indicated that it had contributed to the global discourse and awareness-building on climate change in cities, for example through the ministerial meetings and the annual conferences of the parties. The delegation further expressed the view, that the work of UN-Habitat under subprogramme 4, where it had assisted with urban recovery interventions in numerous conflict and disaster emergencies, was particularly relevant in the context of the current crises and conflicts across different regions that affect millions of people leaving them vulnerable and without shelter.

314. A delegation expressed the view that UN-Habitat had a unique mandate and the trustful relationship with Member States, both in the global South and the global North, and that UN-Habitat successfully used its convening power to bring together global, national and local stakeholders from Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to mobilize broad-based support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and to jointly find solutions to the challenges of urbanization.

315. A delegation expressed the view that UN-Habitat had leveraged collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners with external organizations in support of the urban development agenda, and that through its knowledge products, advocacy, and communication and outreach activities, especially with the organization of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat set global norms and agenda, mobilized public and political support and contributed to important global initiatives on sustainable urban development. Another delegation referred to cooperation with UNEP on environment-related issues that could yield positive results given the expertise of UNEP in this area.

316. A delegation commended UN-Habitat for its continuous work to integrate valuable perspectives in the development of its programmes and for its efforts to collaborate directly at the local and national levels to identify the best interventions and causes leading to urban migration. Another delegation recognized the ambitious nature of the programme proposal covering activities under the mandate of UN-Habitat. Another delegation highlighted the importance of the normative work of UN-Habitat, i.e. in establishing guidelines, standards and best practices that help shape policies, initiatives and actions at the local, national and international levels, as well as contribute to the advancement of global agendas.

317. A delegation encouraged UN-Habitat to explore fully the potential for private sector investment, strengthen links with other United Nations operators, and with bilateral and country level economic development or growth strategies that impact urban cities and human settlement. The delegation gave an example of a bilateral intervention in one African country in which it was engaged and praised that kind of intervention for enabling sustainable infrastructure for prosperous cities, to facilitate finance and investment for the provision of climate-resilient low-carbon infrastructure, and to support local government efforts in capturing climate hazards.

The delegation expressed its country's willingness to engage more with UN-Habitat at the country level.

318. A question was asked about efforts that could strengthen coordination at the country level to ensure mutual benefits and synergy of ongoing programmatic activity. A question was also asked about how UN-Habitat could ensure that interventions were better linked to the national growth strategies and sustainability programmes.

319. With regard to subprogramme 1, result 2 (para. 15.30), a delegation inquired about examples of the cities that had benefited from the work. With regard to result 3 (para. 15.34, figure 15.IV), a delegation inquired why the result planned for 2024 and 2025 included the cities. The delegation further inquired about examples of the cities that had benefited from the work of subprogramme 1.

320. With regard to lessons learned from subprogramme 3 (para. 15.61), a delegation inquired if the update of the guidelines to support the inclusion of urban content in nationally determined contributions would take place in 2025.

321. With regard, to a recommendation contained in the Committee's most recent report (A/78/16), referring to inserting a second sentence: "UN-Habitat will also explore and deepen partnerships with relevant institutions from the global South" to paragraph 15.10, a delegation noted that this change had not been reflected in the current programme plan and requested clarification. The delegation further inquired about actual cooperation of UN-Habitat with institutions from the global South.

322. With regard to a recommendation contained in the Committee's most recent report, referring to inserting "social and economic" after "integration of environmental" in the first sentence of paragraph 15.12 and merging the first and second sentences, by replacing, in the second sentence, "It will collaborate" with "as well as", a delegation noted that these changes had not been reflected in the current programme plan and requested clarification. The delegation expressed the view that any city's agenda had an economic and social dimension of equal importance to environmental one.

Conclusions and recommendations

323. The Committee took note with appreciation of the ongoing implementation of the governance reform of UN-Habitat.

324. The Committee welcomed the continued use of flagship programmes to fast-track integration between the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat and scale up and increase the impact of the Organization.

325. The Committee took note with appreciation the continued monitoring and reporting of UN-Habitat on global trends in order to provide evidence for policymaking in sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including through enhanced use of technologies for data collection and analysis, visualization and management of information.

326. The Committee noted with appreciation that the programme plan for 2025 would support and drive the delivery of sustainable urbanization, thus contributing to poverty and inequality reduction across the urban-rural continuum, streamlining social inclusion and to promoting change toward positive transformation of lives in cities and communities around the world.

327. The Committee noted with regret that some of the modifications recommended in its sixty-third session and approved by the General Assembly during the main part of its seventy-eighth session were not taken into consideration in the drafting of the proposed programme narrative of programme 12 for 2025, namely in its paragraphs 15.10 and 15.12.

328. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UN-Habitat to continue to make judicious use of resources.

329. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 15.10

Insert a new second sentence, reading:

UN-Habitat will also explore and deepen partnerships with relevant institutions from the global South.

Paragraph 15.12

In the first sentence, after “integration of environmental”, insert “, social and economic”.

Merge the first and second sentences, by replacing, in the second sentence, “It will collaborate”, with “as well as”.

Programme 13

International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

330. At its 5th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information for 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 16\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

331. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A delegation commended the Office for its ongoing work and efforts to assist Member States in addressing and countering the world drug problem, transnational organized crime and corruption, and in the prevention of terrorism. Another delegation expressed its strong support to the Office’s work on the issues of cybercrime and anti-corruption. Another delegation expressed its appreciation for the Office’s work in supporting Member States’ efforts on crime prevention and criminal justice. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2025. A delegation emphasized the great importance it gave to the work of UNODC and assured the Office of its continuous support to the Office’s core activities. Another delegation welcomed the continued focus on delivering the UNODC strategy and the ability of the Office to pivot within this framework to focus on emerging issues.

332. Several delegations stressed the importance of field offices and the coordination between them in delivering the Office’s mandate. A delegation commended UNODC on ensuring coordination on the ground and on making information available in Vienna. Another delegation welcomed the recognition of the importance of national ownership when dealing with country-specific issues in the Office’s programme plan. The same delegation found large field presence and cooperation, such as South-South, relevant for the said context.

333. A delegation stressed the importance of tackling the persisting global threats, including the world drug problem, transnational organized crime and corruption, and of preventing terrorism and related threats more effectively through enhanced global cooperation, coordination and partnerships. The same delegation stressed the importance of promoting synergies across global, regional and national programmes. Another delegation expressed the view that UNODC programmes and subprogrammes dealt with issues of great importance that endanger humanity and could trap people in a vicious cycle of crime, poverty and exploitation.

334. A delegation welcomed the Office's plans to enhance its work across three streams, covering normative work, research and analytical work, and technical assistance. The same delegation stressed the importance of giving balanced attention to different subprogrammes, in accordance with the agreed mandates, thereby expressing the view that primary focus of the Office's work should remain on the core areas of its responsibility.

335. A delegation commended UNODC for its efforts in improving its organizational structure and management in line with United Nations reform process, welcoming a stronger focus on results-based management, risk management, monitoring and evaluation to achieve effective and sustainable outcomes.

336. A delegation welcomed the Office's continuing focus on delivering its strategy and inquired as to whether the latter would be updated as we move closer towards 2025 and what that process would look like.

337. A delegation stressed that the International Narcotics Control Board must be treated as an extremely important forum in the context of international drug control. The same delegation noted that, while its country was not represented on the Board, it valued the work of the Board as a forum that not only annually analysed the global drug situation, warned Governments and gave recommendations, but also controlled States' adherence to the international drug control conventions concerning the cultivation, production and use of drugs.

338. A delegation expressed the view that UNODC programming, technical assistance, research, policy and normative work was indispensable to global efforts in engaging these threats, and thus the Office's work should focus on its core mandate of assisting Member States in those areas.

339. A delegation recognized the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a global framework for sustainable development that could help countries work towards global peace and prosperity. The same delegation expressed the view that the Office's mandate-focused work could at times complement broader efforts aimed at implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that such implementation should not be a driving factor in determining its programme of work, which was focused primarily on helping Member States implement their commitments under the three United Nations drug conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other non-binding policy commitments on drug control, crime and corruption. Another delegation expressed its positive view of the interaction between the Office's programme of work and the 2030 Agenda.

340. A delegation stressed the importance of multidimensionality for development projects in the context of the link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the work of UNODC. The same delegation noted that States' development should not be understood as being achieved contingent upon achieving a certain threshold of revenue, but rather should continue until sustainability is reached.

341. A delegation stressed the importance of engagement with young people. Another delegation stressed the importance of considering the opinions of the scientific

community and the representatives of civil society, including NGOs, when planning and implementing strategies to counter the world drug problem. The same delegation maintained that, as there was no single cause of drug abuse, there was also no single solution to the problems related to it. Hence, the solutions adopted must be both evidence-based and adjusted to social needs. Another delegation stressed the importance of legislation being a solution that responds to new challenges of incorporating links between drugs and crime, as well as the importance of strengthening good governance and of building inclusive, equitable, resilient societies. The same delegation commended the Office for including gender perspectives in its subprogramme 5, Justice, as well as for robust language in paragraphs 16.5 and 16.7 of the programme plan.

342. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of UNODC, in particular on subprogramme 1, Countering transnational organized crime, including the review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; subprogramme 2 on countering the world drug problem; subprogramme 4, Terrorism prevention; and subprogramme 5, Justice, all of which were key priorities for the delegation's country.

343. A delegation expressed the view that priority in providing technical assistance should be given to developing countries. Another delegation encouraged the Office to work in the area of capacity-building of developing countries and to strive to ensure equitable representation.

344. A delegation expressed the view that the lack of consensus the previous year on the Office's programme plan had been disappointing.

345. Concern was expressed by a delegation on the use of terminology in the programme plan that had not been intergovernmentally agreed. The delegation noted it was appropriate to reflect in paragraph 16.62, as well as in the results of the activities of the subprogramme on justice (para. 16.76), certain "international standards in the field of human rights". The delegation suggested that, in the context of law enforcement, it would be more appropriate to use the following language: "relevant obligations of Member States in accordance with international legal instruments on human rights".

346. A delegation expressed its discontent with the softening of the language used in paragraph 16.134 of the programme plan, namely, the use of the term "misuse" in lieu of "illicit consumption".

347. A delegation commended UNODC for an impressive number of resolutions.

348. A delegation expressed concern that the Office's activities to assist in the combating of terrorism had been duplicated with the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the primary United Nations agency with the relevant mandate to deal with counter-terrorism. The delegation maintained the view that it was important to leave the phrase "combating terrorism" in paragraph 16.55 (b) and (d) without the new addition of "prevention". The delegation maintained there was no reason to expand the mandate of UNODC in this area and inquired as to how the issue of duplication of work between both Offices was being dealt with.

349. A question was raised about the reasoning behind the decision not to include in the strategy and external factors of the 2025 programme plan any reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other documents, such as the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

350. With regard to subprogramme 1, figure 16.I, a delegation inquired about the reasons for lowering the 2024 planned target (150) compared with the 2023 actual

result (162) and then increasing it considerably for 2025 (185). The same delegation noted the same trend in figure 16.II, also in subprogramme 1, figure 16.VII, in subprogramme 3, and figure 16.XX, in subprogramme 8. The delegation inquired about the reasons behind the pessimism in planning of 2024 targets in the above listed cases.

351. With regard to subprogramme 2, a delegation inquired how the 2024 midterm review would inform the work of UNODC going forward. Another delegation noted that the results of that subprogramme focused on the supply part of the world drug problem and inquired about possible measures to target the demand part. With regard to result 3 of that subprogramme, another delegation noted with interest the lessons learned and planned changes, as presented in paragraph 16.37, and expressed its wish to learn about the effects of such an approach in the subsequent programme plan.

352. With regard to paragraph 16.47, on subprogramme 3, result 2, a delegation inquired about the measures to reach the objective and why, in the light of having exceeding the planned target of 14 countries building their institutional capacities – the number actually reaching 30 – the target for 2024 had not been adjusted to a more ambitious one.

353. With regard to subprogramme 4, result 1, a delegation inquired about particular synergies deriving from the Office's work with another entities, in particular with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

354. With regard to subprogramme 6 and the mention of the national Centre of Excellence for Illicit Drug Supply Reduction in Brazil, a suggestion was made by a delegation also to mention in the text a reference to the defunding of organized crime, which the delegation considered to be an effective countermeasure.

355. With regard to subprogramme 8, a delegation noted with appreciation a critical role of coordination on the ground and among Member States. The same delegation expressed gratification to see that subprogramme 8 reflected the importance of coordination across the United Nations, in particular in the field; welcomed the increasing use of regional coordinators; and inquired about the way coordination helped UNODC to embed its work within the wider framework.

356. With regard to subprogramme 9, result 2, a delegation thanked the Office for the provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The same delegation confirmed being among the 97 per cent of Member States participating in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that expressed full satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of technical and substantive services provided by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies (figure 16.XXI).

Conclusions and recommendations

357. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 14

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

358. At its 8th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 17)). The Committee

also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

359. Several delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme and the work carried out by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). A delegation stated its strong support for UN-Women's role as a normative and policy-setting agency and acknowledged the alignment between the mandate of UN-Women and the vision of its Foreign Secretary of prioritizing women and girls in diplomatic and development work, as was outlined in its International Women and Girls Strategy. Delegations also noted the central role played by UN-Women in contributing to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

360. Support was expressed for the effective broader systems change through seven systemic outcomes, the recognition of multiple and intersecting needs of members of marginalized and underrepresented groups by UN-Women, and for the prioritization by UN-Women of business transformation to drive the effective and efficient implementation of its strategic plan within the repositioned United Nations development system.

361. Support was also expressed for the work that UN-Women continues to carry out within its mandate. The delegation's view was that it was understood that when women were empowered, societies thrived, and further stated that a future could be created where gender equality was not just an aspiration, but a reality and that a world could be built where every woman and girl can thrive, contribute and lead. The delegation looked forward to further collaboration with UN-Women in the implementation of the two sub-programmes towards the achievement of the planned results for 2025.

362. Another delegation gave its support for the mandate and various programmes and initiatives of UN-Women to further promote gender equality and women empowerment. The delegation further stated that it lauds UN-Women for standing with women and girls that were facing the scourge and consequences of war and conflict. The delegation also commended UN-Women for standing with all women peace builders, negotiators and human rights defenders who continue to pursue justice for women and girls in that regard.

363. Another delegation also expressed support for the work undertaken by UN-Women to eliminate the obstacles faced by women and girls, in particular the discrimination that prevented them from participating on equal terms in political, peace, economic, social and other processes. The delegation further stated that the achievement of development will not be possible without the real participation of women in all fields; therefore, the delegation supported all efforts aimed at creating egalitarian links through which a more just and violence-free space for coexistence can be built.

364. Gratitude was expressed by a delegation for the contribution of UN-Women to women's advancement around the world and expressed support to UN-Women for playing a bigger role in the global governance of women's agenda. Another delegation encouraged the ongoing efforts towards achieving gender parity at all levels throughout the organization.

365. Recognition was given by another delegation to UN-Women for the work in raising global awareness of the need to mainstream gender equality in national policies and driving the acceleration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for

Action and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 5 in particular.

366. A delegation complemented UN-Women on the efforts to eliminate the obstacles preventing women and girls all over the world from achieving full participation under equal conditions and reiterated its commitment to gender equality and to the empowerment of women, and the incorporation of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The delegation further mentioned that it had undertaken the commitment to eradicate violence, discrimination against women and girls through a process of sustainable policies.

367. Recognition was given by another delegation the programmatic plan and objectives of UN-Women, which the delegation stated were generally in line with the mandates conferred by intergovernmentally agreed documents aiming at the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 5, and the implementation of a cross-cutting approach to gender perspective in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

368. The delegation highlighted several positive aspects which included capacity-building initiatives, gender equality for staff at the United Nations system, the launching of the United Nations gender quota portal, and the fact that goals were exceeded in at least three results.

369. In reference to result 1, subprogramme 2 of the 2023 programme plan, which showed the result of dealing with the implementation of national plans on women and peace and security of Member States, there was a goal of 93 national plans being adopted, however, the delegation stated that it did not see this goal anymore in the 2025 programme plan and they asked for further clarification as to why that information was not in the current document.

370. Another delegation stated that the Sustainable Development Goal 5 spoke about gender equality and women empowerment. While the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action reemphasized the rights of women and girls as inalienable, indivisible and integral parts of human rights. The delegation requested further clarification as to what feedback UN-Women had received from such difficult societies in the implementation of gender equality and women empowerment policies.

371. The delegation also asked what the prospects were and what could be done differently from what was done before to ensure success to a greater extent globally in the implementation of women empowerment and gender equality. The delegation further recommended that, in measuring the achievements of gender equality, it was important to place challenging environments in a particular category, and a separate strategy was to be initiated towards advocating and implementing gender equality and women and girls empowerment policy if the gap was to be bridged.

372. A delegation welcomed the focus on youth, women and girls with disabilities and strengthening norms and standards on gender equality. Another delegation expressed its support for the efforts of UN-Women to promote gender-responsive disability inclusion work with persons with disabilities. The same delegation stated that it was committed to advocating for gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, acknowledging their diverse backgrounds. The delegation expressed particular concern for women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, including those with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex women, women from marginalized racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds, low-income women workers, and Indigenous women.

373. Another delegation placed emphasis on diversity and reiterated previous comments regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons. The delegation stated that diversity was a broad, all-encompassing principle and was

committed to the equality and professional development of all staff members without any form of discrimination, including on the grounds of sex, nationality, age, race, disabilities, sexual orientation or gender identity. The delegation further stated that UN-Women, in line with its mandates, was responsible for supporting the achievement of gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls as actors and beneficiaries of sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. The delegation asked for further clarification on how UN-Women interpreted “all women and girls” in the context of diversity and clarification as to how this interpretation might be implemented.

374. A delegation recognized the efforts deployed by all agencies of the United Nations system that made it possible to launch the gender perspective across the different programmes. The delegation stated that it valued the fact that the programme strategy, the promotion of accountability of the United Nations system in relation to gender equality, was present and that the cross-cutting nature of the gender perspective, including capacity creation and improving women’s conditions across the system, included key factors, such as disability and youth.

375. The delegation further went on to state that its country presented its feminist foreign policy which sought to ensure a cross-cutting gender perspective, across all forums in which they participated.

376. The delegation expressed its sympathy to the challenging operational context facing UN-Women. The delegation further stated that with financial constraints impacting voluntary contributions, and a concerning rolling back of hard-fought norms and standards on gender equality, UN-Women must carefully consider how to best adapt to deliver results in a complex environment. In this context, the delegation stated that it would encourage the focus of UN-Women progress on their normative and convening roles. The delegation further stated that the operational work, in its view, should be focused on building capacity of local women-led organizations rather than delivering services and become another implementer in an already crowded context.

377. Another delegation expressed the view that there was a need to bring gender equity and equality to the foreground, which had become even more urgent with current global crises, conflicts and other widespread challenges. The status of human rights, the rule of law and democracy would be determined by the situation of women and girls around the world.

378. The delegation reiterated its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and stated that it would continue to work collaboratively with UN-Women and Member States to advance international cooperation to ensure women and girls benefits from UN-Women policy delivery and further stated that it strongly supported the creation of the entity in 2011.

379. Another delegation stated that conflict prevention and the maintenance of international peace and security could not be achieved without the broad participation of women. In a world fraught with instability and insecurity, the continued support for women’s empowerment was essential for women to be better equipped to navigate the changing world and bring to bear their wisdom and potential on securing peace and development.

380. A delegation highlighted that UN-Women played a crucial role in coordination and provided expertise on the United Nations work on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The delegation further commended the work done by UN-Women, and particularly welcomed the lessons learned and planned changes of subprogramme 1 on the expansion of the use of available data resources. The delegation stated that this was very important for assessing global progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

381. Another delegation stated that women's empowerment would lead to economic growth, improved health, education outcomes and stronger communities, and that dismantling barriers that hinder women's progress, such as gender-based violence, unequal pay and limited access to education and health care, was critical.

382. The delegation expressed the view that by promoting gender equality, it can unlock the full potential of women and contribute to a more just and prosperous world. The delegation further stated that gender equality and the empowerment of women was not just a matter of fairness, but it was a fundamental human right that was enshrined in its Constitution, and it was about creating a world where all individuals, regardless of their gender, have equal opportunities, rights and access to resources. In this regard, with reference to table 17.5 of subprogramme 2, the delegation gave its appreciation for the collaboration that they had with UN-Women towards the implementation of the constitutional provision that required that no more than two thirds of the members of an elected or appointed body could be of the same gender.

383. Another delegation stated that the UN-Women programme was aligned with its country's priorities, and that they saw a significant amount of added value in the mandate of UN-Women in the normative, operational and coordination areas. The delegation stated that this was also true of the strategic plan of UN-Women, in particular in gender equality being promoted in a holistic manner throughout the entire United Nations system. The delegation further stated that when it came to the plan for 2025, it was very interested in seeing to what extent the accelerators of gender equality will be effective and operational in 2025.

384. The delegation noted that despite some progress made, it was worth noting that the world was failing to achieve gender equality. The delegation further stated that it agreed with UN-Women that there were still some traditional societies in which women and girls remained seen as lesser human beings, and this had created barriers that made it difficult, if not impossible, for women and girls to develop and advance, and succeed in their endeavours.

385. Support was also expressed for the programme's focus on the four thematic areas: promoting governance and participation in public life; women's economic empowerment; ending violence against women and girls; and women and peace and security, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction.

386. The delegation also supported UN-Women in effecting broader systems change through seven systemic outcomes: strengthened global normative frameworks and gender-responsive laws, policies and institutions; financing for gender equality; positive social norms; equitable access to services, goods and resources; women's voices, leadership and agency; production, analysis and use of gender statistics, sex-disaggregated data and knowledge; and United Nations system coordination.

387. A delegation placed particular importance on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes, including for women in situations of vulnerability, such as women in conflict, post-conflict situations and humanitarian settings. The delegation stated that they look forward to the review of the planned results for 2025 on women's participation in political life. From that perspective, they would also welcome the synergy and exchange of expertise between UN-Women and relevant treaty bodies, as well as other human rights mechanisms.

388. Emphasis was placed on highlighting the valuable work of UN-Women and encouraged UN-Women to continue its efforts regarding climate change, since its consequences disproportionately impact women and girls, making them a particularly vulnerable group in the face of this global crisis.

389. A delegation stated that they had highlighted the need to implement collective actions that were precise and effective in the area of gender, to dismantle the structural

barriers that they faced and moved towards societies that were fairer, more peaceful and more inclusive. The delegation further stated that it was a natural ally of UN-Women which contributed to advancing the gender agenda and achieved significant progress nationally.

390. The delegation mentioned that it had presented a national development strategy for 2050 with three pillars, one of which was the transformation of gender relations. The delegation added that it was the first country in the world to ratify the International Labour Organization Convention No. 189 (2011) on Domestic Workers. The women and peace and security agenda was supported by the delegation which had made all efforts to increase the participation of women in peace missions; the delegation highlighted its historic contribution of 1600 women to peace missions, including even before the passing of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) that urged Member States to increase the role of women in United Nations operations on the ground.

391. A delegation remarked that it had attached great importance to the women's agenda and had lifted over 44 million rural women out of extreme poverty and accounted for over 40 per cent of their total employment, 45.8 per cent of workers employed in science and technology and about a third of those in new business formats, such as digital trade, e-commerce and live streaming. The delegation stated that those figures were placed in a context of billions of people; young women actively assisted countries with policy formulation and international cooperation on empowering women, eradicating women's poverty and achieving gender equality.

392. A delegation communicated that they would call upon UN-Women to respect the existing division of labour between the organizations of the United Nations system and to carry out its activities in strict accordance with the mandate entrusted to it. It was emphasized that there was a need for further adjustment to the UN-Women programme, in particular paragraphs 17.15 and 17.16 and table 17.7, which are related to climate change. The delegation stated that they proceeded from the premise that any activities of UN-Women within countries, including interaction with civil society, should be carried out only at the request of the relevant interested State.

393. A delegation raised a question with reference to paragraph 17.39, figure 17.III, where reference was made to a number of legislative frameworks, and the delegation inquired as to whether the number of legislative frameworks here referred to a number of States. If that was the case, it was recalled that it would mean that there was only 70 out of a total of 193 States, which would mean relatively few had undertaken efforts to ensure the participation of women in political life, and that this represented very little progress, and actually demonstrated how big the task was, and that perhaps UN-Women should raise its ambitions in the objectives and in the expected outcomes, taking into account the budgetary limitations and the slow advance of certain legislative processes.

394. A different delegation expressed that it was difficult to agree with the statement about the decisive role of UN-Women in the consideration of gender issues by countries in their electoral legislation (para. 17.38). The delegation also stated that, in practice, fundamental decisions on the development and content of such documents fell within the competence of the relevant governments, and efforts by UN-Women was limited to advisory assistance. In this context, the benchmarks stated in figure 17.III, which, was not adopted at the intergovernmental level, looked very strange. The delegation informed that it would submit written proposals regarding its comments on the text of programme 14.

Conclusions and recommendations

395. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 15 Economic and social development in Africa

396. At its 15th meeting, on 23 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 18\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

397. Several delegations commended the work of ECA and the proposed programme plan for 2025. A delegation noted that the Commission promoted conditions that ensured a place of dignity for Africa in the system of global economic relations by encouraging internal regional integration and promoting international cooperation for development. Another delegation referenced its own membership of the European Union to underscore the importance of regional cooperation and the important work of the Commission. A delegation pointed to the critical role played by the Commission in promoting economic and social development by supporting its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Another delegation commended the Commission for building the capacity of member States in various areas within its mandate for inclusive, sustainable and transformative economic and social development. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the Commission’s hard work in preparing the proposed programme plan and said that it highly valued the committed work of the Commission in multiple areas. Another delegation described the programme plan as solid and consistent.

398. A delegation described itself and Africa as long-term sincere friends that together had achieved fruitful cooperative results in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. The same delegation expressed support for the Commission’s work and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening communication and coordination with the Commission to realize Agenda 2063 and African integration, development and prosperity.

399. A delegation said that the Commission had played a major role in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and had promoted international cooperation for the development and prosperity of Africa. The same delegation recalled that in January 2020, the Subregional Office for North Africa had held a workshop on developing regional value chains in e-mobility in Rabat, as part of a project aimed at fostering the emergence of African electric mobility by enhancing the technical know-how required in that important domain.

400. A delegation welcomed the initiatives carried out by the Commission in Cameroon. The delegation explained that the Commission had supported Cameroon in 2023 in disseminating economic statistics and in validating its economic development plan, including environmental accountability. The delegation also noted

the announcement by the Commission of the provision of technical assistance to member States in 2025 to promote special economic zones.

401. A delegation commended the comprehensive nature of the programme plan and enquired about the importance of the resident coordinators and virtual meetings to the work of the Commission.

402. A delegation reaffirmed its commitment to help put the Sustainable Development Goals back on track, to ensure that the United Nations development system was better able to deliver, in line with the priorities of the global South. Accordingly, the delegation welcomed the programme's focus on ambition towards achieving the Goals. The same delegation reiterated its commitment to Africa and pledged to continue to work collaboratively with the Commission and member States to advance international cooperation towards economic, social and environmental development in Africa.

403. A delegation emphasized that achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 were of mutual interest. The delegation expressed support for the policies of the Commission and the United Nations to move the two large-scale agendas closer together in a balanced way. The same delegation noted that the 2025 programme plan reflected the Commission's resolutions, as well as the new priorities of the continent.

404. A delegation said that the situation in many parts of Africa remained unstable and that social and economic crises persisted, which related to the heavy burden of the colonial era and the divide and rule policy pursued by Western Powers in Africa. The delegation expressed its support for African States in their search for independent ways to resolve the conflicts and problems of the continent. The delegation said that it was important to abide by the principle of African solutions for African problems. The delegation added that the partners involved should be able to agree on how to move forward, and that none of the external players should try to impose solutions.

405. Underscoring the importance of an unbroken supply of food to ensure food security and socioeconomic development in Africa, a delegation said that the Russian Federation had increased deliveries of agricultural products to Africa, despite the imposition of illegal unilateral coercive measures on its exports. The delegation said that those measures had made it difficult for the Russian Federation to supply food, arrange transport logistics and make insurance and bank payments.

406. A delegation said that the BRICS group (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) was open to broad cooperation with African countries as part of Agenda 2063. The same delegation said that one of the priorities of the Russian Federation during its chairmanship of BRICS in 2024 was mobilization to counter the fragmentation of multilateral international trade, protectionism and illicit trade restrictions.

407. A delegation said that the Commission played a critical role in helping countries in Africa to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and urged it to continue to focus on areas of comparative advantage and to abstain from expanding its mandate. The same delegation further encouraged the Commission to continue its efforts to facilitate knowledge exchange and experience-sharing among the regional commissions.

408. A delegation noted that the Commission showed great appreciation for human capital. That had benefited Africa in the field of health, particularly in the production of medicines and vaccines.

409. With regard to the use of online and virtual modalities for service delivery, a delegation asked whether those were still relevant and effective in fulfilling mandated service delivery for the Commission.

410. A delegation took note of General Assembly resolution [78/262](#), which promoted agriculture development in Africa as a means to improve food security and self-sufficiency and address the root causes of poverty. While the delegation supported agriculture development for food sovereignty in Africa, it felt that it was equally important to mention other areas that needed to be addressed urgently.

411. A delegation said that, while it attached importance to climate adaptation and gender equality, it did not believe that climate change and gender inequality were the main causes of poverty in Africa, and that addressing those issues would not, therefore, solve the continent's debt management, poverty and sustainable development challenges. The delegation said that the root causes of poverty would be addressed through strengthening good governance, finding solutions to political instability and digitizing the African revenue generation institutions to mobilize domestic resources.

412. A delegation, noting that Africa had the potential to produce sufficient food, said that in many parts of the continent, agricultural produce perished because of the inaccessibility of farm-to-market road networks. In that connection, the delegation proposed infrastructure development, in particular rural connectivity and improved industrial technology, which the delegation believed was paramount to achieving sustainable development in Africa.

413. A delegation said that prioritizing digital technology in Africa would help to improve good governance, reduce systemic corruption, encourage public trust in the governance system, promote economic inclusion, improve service delivery, and sustain peace and security.

414. A delegation noted that most of the strategies listed in paragraph 18.3 would address the major development issues in Africa if implemented. The delegation proposed the simultaneous implementation of agricultural development and infrastructure construction, as food sovereignty could not be realized without the necessary infrastructure.

415. A delegation referred to the communiqué of the forty-fourth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union and the thirty-seventh African Union Summit, which outlined many of the priorities to implement Agenda 2063, including an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. According to assessment reports submitted by 30 African countries, progress made towards achieving "a prosperous Africa" was 37 per cent, while progress made towards achieving "an Africa of good governance that would lead to a peaceful and secure Africa" was 43 per cent, the two lowest scores of the assessment reports. The delegation concluded that more needed to be done to achieve good governance and agricultural infrastructure development in Africa to achieve Agenda 2063.

416. A delegation supported the view expressed in paragraph 18.128 that the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area, a key pillar of African integration that had created a single market for goods and services in Africa, would only be fully realized once all African countries had ratified the agreement. Currently, only 46 countries had ratified the agreement. The delegation encouraged the Commission to continue supporting those countries that had not yet ratified the agreement in order to ensure that full implementation could advance.

417. A delegation noted that the Commission had assisted Kenya in organizing a review of its implementation strategy for the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The Commission had also conducted capacity-building exercises and carried out awareness-raising for the private sector on unlocking the full potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and Kenya looked forward to continued collaboration. Another delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring the functioning of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

418. On subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance, paragraph 18.18, a delegation requested details on what specifically the Commission had done to support innovative financing in national markets. The delegation also asked whether there was a correlation between the discontinuation of subprogramme 3, Private sector development and finance, and the reduction in the number of projects foreseen for 2025, as outlined in table 18.4. While noting the current difficult economic situation, as described by the Commission, the delegation was concerned that from 2023 to 2025, the number of private sector-related projects would fall from six to two, when the expectation was an increase in projects. The delegation asked how equitable support for the various subregions of the continent would be guaranteed if there were only two projects, as it seemed a choice would have to be made to select a couple of subregions, leaving other subregions behind. The delegation asked about the initiatives and specific projects that the Commission had undertaken to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices for the appropriate management of assets to favour sustainable development.

419. Referring to result 1, strengthened debt management for resilient recovery, of subprogramme 1, and paragraph 18.18, and in view of the series of shocks and stark data on increased debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratios, a delegation requested further insight into the proposed instruments to address that challenge. The same delegation, while recognizing the value of the assistance proposed as it related to policy advice, technical assistance, publications and platforms for dialogue, questioned the existing capacity of local African macro policy expertise and leadership. The delegation recognized the short-term pressures on member States resulting from their immediate economic priorities as well as the financial constraints of the programme and asked whether the proposed interventions alone were likely to address the root of the problem or shift the dial on high debt-to-GDP ratios. The delegation asked whether the Commission had considered a model focused on catalysing systemic incentives and institutions to help drive a shift towards more strategic policymaking through changes in institutional capacity and stimuli, rather than focusing solely on advice and technical assistance.

420. A delegation highlighted the limited influence of the programme in a highly complex and difficult environment and in view of the numerous factors beyond the programme's control, and asked whether the Commission might consider targeting a reduction in debt-to-GDP ratio as the most important indicator of progress. The delegation said that the number of member States that developed long-term strategies to manage debt in an integrated manner did not necessarily readily capture the effectiveness or impact of those strategies.

421. A delegation noted that the issue of debt in Africa was critical and that the gap in domestic resource mobilization in many countries needed to be bridged. The delegation further noted that most capital markets in Africa remained underdeveloped, with few listed securities and financial products. The delegation expressed its keen interest in hearing about the outcome of the implementation of the lessons learned, as mentioned in paragraph 18.27, to realize the potential that was foreseen in subprogramme 1.

422. A delegation noted that regional integration in Africa played a vital role in driving economic growth, promoting peace and stability, facilitating trade and fostering collaboration. The delegation felt that it was a key strategy for harnessing

the continent's potential and achieving sustainable development for the benefit of all African nations. Another delegation noted that Kenya was grateful to have benefited already from some of the strategies proposed in subprogramme 2, Regional integration and trade.

423. A delegation noted that the 2025 programme strategy on supporting deeper regional integration and socioeconomic development was of particular importance. The delegation said that it had always championed co-development in Africa and, in that regard, referenced its country's partnership with the Royal Atlantic Initiative to promote access to the Atlantic Ocean for the Sahel States, in addition to several other important initiatives that fostered regional integration and development in Africa.

424. A delegation requested more information on risk management in the context of the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

425. On subprogramme 5, Technology, climate change and natural resources management, a delegation welcomed the Commission's leadership in producing the first regional carbon registry for the Congo Basin Climate Commission, but wondered whether the new subprogramme 5, Climate, food security and natural resources, green and blue economy, was actually less ambitious than the previous one. Referencing table 18.10, rows B.6, B.7, B.17 and B.19, the same delegation expressed concern that projects to strengthen national capacities in negotiations on carbon credits, the green economy and the climate fund would either stagnate or be reduced. That was extremely concerning as the climate crisis required that strong measures be taken.

426. A delegation expressed support for the Commission's efforts to finalize and adopt a protocol on climate change and to provide evidence-based recommendations for enhancing regional trade while mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The delegation also emphasized its support for the Commission's focus on the sustainable use of natural resources, including through technical assistance for food systems transformation and for value addition of minerals critical to the energy transition.

427. The same delegation was interested in hearing more about the Commission's efforts to overcome limited financing for women by highlighting investment needs to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, and asked whether that was being done on a country-by-country basis through the Commission or whether there was a regional approach.

428. On subprogramme 6, Gender equality and women's empowerment, a delegation requested justification for the decrease in the number of workshops for knowledge dissemination.

429. With regard to subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for development, a delegation enquired about the extent to which the subregional activities correlated with the substance of other subprogrammes, how consistency and coherence was guaranteed, and how risks of duplication were avoided.

Conclusions and recommendations

430. **The Committee commended ECA for its efforts in promoting the economic and social development of Africa and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, and underlined the importance of the Commission's role in fostering regional integration and promoting international cooperation for the development of Africa.**

431. **The Committee commended the Commission's advisory role to member States in promoting intra-African trade, industrialization and integration, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to**

ensure that the Commission's activities continued in line with the priorities of the African Union's second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

432. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to encourage the mobilization of resources promised by the international community within the fight against climate change in support of the implementation of technical cooperation projects on the continent.

433. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to support the Commission in its efforts to combat over-indebtedness in member States, through greater involvement of the private sector in the search for innovative financing on national markets.

434. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 5

Climate, food security and natural resources, green and blue economy

Title

After "Climate" add "change".

After "natural resources" delete ", green and blue economy".

Programme 16

Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

435. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2025 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

436. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information in 2023.

437. A delegation indicated that its country highly valued the committed work of ESCAP on multiple strands and that the country was committed to helping to get the Sustainable Development Goals "back on track", ensuring that the United Nations development system was better able to deliver in line with the priorities of the global South. Accordingly, the delegation welcomed that programme's focus on ambition towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Goals. The delegation reiterated its country's strong commitment to Asia and the Pacific and to working collaboratively with the Organization and Member States to advance international cooperation towards economic, social and environmental development.

438. A delegation noted that, at the time, the Asia-Pacific region remained generally peaceful and stable, and the region's position as an engine of global economic growth had become more prominent, and further noted that ESCAP, as the most important regional cooperation mechanism of the United Nations in the Asia-Pacific region, had important missions. The delegation indicated that its country had been an important

member of the Asia and the Pacific region, attached high importance to the role of ESCAP and had been actively participating in those activities. The delegation expressed its appreciation for the support of ESCAP for its member States in making progress towards the Goals, in particular in helping least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to make progress towards the Goals. The delegation expressed its country's commitment to standing ready to work with ESCAP to firmly uphold multilateralism, jointly promoting the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, making joint efforts to pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and making greater contributions to the building of a community with a shared future in the Asia-Pacific region.

439. A delegation expressed its belief that ESCAP played a crucial role in promoting cooperation among member States in Asia and the Pacific by supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Goals.

440. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the mandate and work of ESCAP, including the Commission's support to the countries in the region, advancement of sustainable socioeconomic development and the realization of the Goals. With regard to the strategy outlined in the programme, the delegation expressed its appreciation for the commitment by ESCAP to further supporting the achievement of sustainable development at the regional, subregional and national levels, giving balanced attention to the three dimensions related to economic, social and environmental development. The delegation expressed its hope that the nine subprogrammes, which covered a broad spectrum of the Commission's work, would further enable ESCAP to advance multifaceted regional economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The delegation noted that more concrete efforts were needed to tap the potential of regional and subregional cooperation and integration, including in the areas of trade, investment, innovation, connectivity, the environment, climate change and information and communications technology (ICT), among others, and encouraged ESCAP to continue to promote international and regional cooperation in support of its member States' efforts to achieve sustainable development in a resilient manner, giving special attention to the needs of the developing countries that were particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. In reference to paragraph 19.6, and noting that the proposed programme did not touch on all subregions in that broad region, the delegation sought additional thoughts of the Secretariat on the upcoming plans and initiatives, in particular in the South Asian subregion.

441. A delegation highly valued the role of ESCAP in promoting regional cooperation in sustainable development and inclusive growth across the Asia and the Pacific region, in particular through the promotion of communication, cooperation and capacity-building. The delegation considered ESCAP and other regional commissions to possess a distinct set of capabilities and knowledge, along with partnering networks and the requisite infrastructure at both the regional and national levels, to effectively support member States in advancing sustainable development, as well as in enhancing digital transformation and developing trade capacities and transport infrastructure. The delegation noted that, at the time of the current Committee meeting, the visit of a delegation to its country, organized by ESCAP within the framework of the voluntary national review twinning programme, had been successfully completed on the same day. The delegation welcomed the particular focus of the Commission on development of infrastructure and promotion of trade through enhancement of transport connectivity. The delegation also commended the emphasis on digitalization in many subprogrammes across the Commission's programme for 2025. Noting that over 30 countries in special situations were members of ESCAP and that the delegation's awareness of the active work of the Commission was aimed at addressing the challenges of those countries arising from their structural constraints, and noting with satisfaction the direct link between the main deliverables of the programme and

the priorities of the most vulnerable countries, the delegation sought elaboration by ESCAP on the work to be done by the Commission in support of global efforts to address the developmental and structural challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The delegation concluded by once again reaffirming its readiness to work closely with ESCAP in various areas towards advancing Goals in the delegation's country and in other regions of Asia and the Pacific.

442. A delegation noted that, as a long-standing member of the Commission, the delegation's country reiterated its unwavering support for the role of ESCAP in promoting the 2030 Agenda in the region. The delegation noted that all lines of programming reflected important challenges that the Commission should address and supported all subprogrammes. The delegation expressed its appreciation for the fact that a gender perspective was mainstreamed not only in subprogramme 6, Social development, but also in many other subprogrammes, for example in the programme performance for subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation, noting the increasing amount of capital finance available for women entrepreneurs.

443. A delegation expressed its country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the Goals and its wish to continue its close partnership with ESCAP and other Member States to accelerate achievement of the Goals. The delegation also expressed its country's commitment to an ESCAP region that was free and open, connected, prosperous, resilient and secure – a region that steadfastly supported the four pillars of the Charter of the United Nations: peace and security, development, rule of law and human rights. The delegation supported efforts of ESCAP to promote digital connectivity through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, and was proud to help to lead that effort as Co-Chair of the working group on connectivity for all. The delegation applauded the environmental efforts of ESCAP, in particular the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution, which was taking important steps to rally the region to strengthen data-sharing and transparency to tackle transboundary air pollution. Noting that the Goals could not be achieved without the support of the entire multilateral and international system within and beyond the United Nations, as well as innovative and inclusive partnerships, the delegation expressed its strong support for the central role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Asia-Pacific region and applauded the provisions in the ESCAP proposed programme plan that committed to expanded cooperation between ESCAP and ASEAN, including on the Goals. Noting that the comprehensive strategic partnership between ASEAN and the United States, signed in 2022, committed to partnership on the Goals, the delegation welcomed collaboration with both ESCAP and ASEAN on the Goals, as well as further multilateral partnerships towards that goal. Noting the close partnership between the delegation's country, Pacific Island countries and the Pacific Island Forum, including through the Partners in the Blue Pacific mechanism, the delegation applauded the efforts of ESCAP to support the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent of the Pacific Islands Forum and welcomed collaboration in that regard.

444. A delegation highlighted that ESCAP, as the principal intergovernmental platform for the United Nations in the Asia-Pacific region, was of utmost relevance to the region in assisting member States in pursuing solutions with regard to sustainable development and help with research and analysis, facilitation of intergovernmental consensus-building, technical cooperation and capacity development. The delegation noted that it was important for the work of ESCAP to continue to adequately reflect the priorities of developing countries. The delegation acknowledged that the programme covered various aspects of important issues, including environment, transportation, trade and disaster risk management, as well as

statistics and social development, in the Asia-Pacific region. Noting that ESCAP and its various centres were playing a leading role in development activities in the Asia-Pacific region, the delegation expressed the commitment of its country, a member of ESCAP and the host of its Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management team, to continuing its support for and active participation in the work of ESCAP.

445. A delegation that is a member of the European Union acknowledged the importance of both regional cooperation and the work of ESCAP to the member States in the region. With reference to the mention of the resident coordinator system in the programme plan, the delegation sought explanations of how ESCAP worked together with the resident coordinators on the ground and of what was needed by ESCAP from the resident coordinators for its own work to fulfil its mandate in the best way possible.

446. A delegation raised a question as to whether the use of hybrid and virtual modalities was still relevant to and effective in fulfilling the mandated service delivery of ESCAP. Another delegation made reference to the indication from other regional commissions that placed greater relevance on having hybrid and virtual conferencing tools for inclusivity, and sought an assessment by ESCAP of how important it was to have hybrid and virtual conferencing tools for the Commission's work.

447. With regard to subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development, in reference to paragraph 19.30, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the value of the work of ESCAP on digitization and asked what reduction in tax evasion had been achieved through the digitalization of tax administration in a specific country, implemented in 2023.

448. With regard to subprogramme 3, Transport, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the committed work of ESCAP on that subprogramme and, in reference to paragraph 19.64, enquired as to – following the agreement on including safe transport in the regional action programme in 2021, the regional action plan in 2022 and road safety policies in 2023 – what the reduction in road traffic deaths was to date as a result of the subprogramme's work in Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, recognizing that the programme would have further years to be implemented.

449. With regard to subprogramme 4, Environment and development, a delegation expressed its support for ESCAP activities, in line with that subprogramme and its belief that enhanced cooperation and capacity-building could promote environmental sustainability in the region. The delegation noted that, since 2005, its country had been working on sharing good practices of green growth with the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth and would be happy to collaborate further on those matters.

450. With regard to subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management, a delegation noted that the objectives of bridging the digital divide and using new technologies to adapt to climate change, as well as to achieve the 2030 Agenda, were completely in line with the policies of the delegation's Government. The delegation further noted that its country was a host country for the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and that the delegation's country would continue to support the capacity-building of developing countries with regard to ICT. The delegation enquired as to how ESCAP viewed the challenges presented by artificial intelligence technology and whether ESCAP had any further plans to explore that matter in the coming years.

451. With regard to subprogramme 7, Statistics, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of ESCAP on that subprogramme and, in reference to paragraph 19.122, asked which member States the planned world café-style sessions on data governance and other issues would be open to and whether there would an opportunity for synergy beyond the region.

452. A delegation said that it would welcome any further data on the impact of collaboration, beyond the useful data on participation in those valuable programmes. For example, with regard to subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development, and component 2, Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia, and in reference to paragraph 19.147, the delegation asked whether the programme measured actual impact on air pollution and, with regard to subprogramme 8, component 5, Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia, and in reference to paragraph 19.189, the delegation enquired as to whether the programme measured actual impact on sustainable foreign direct investments in the subregion in the 80 per cent of member States reporting an increase in capacity to promote it.

Conclusions and recommendations

453. The Committee commended ESCAP for its efforts in promoting the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with its mandate, and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Commission to accelerate its efforts to support its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close coordination with its partners at the regional, subregional and country levels.

454. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Commission to continue its efforts to promote international and regional cooperation in support of its member States' efforts to achieve sustainable development in a resilient manner, giving special attention to the needs of the developing countries, which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

455. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Commission to continue its efforts to build resilience and sustainability, alleviate poverty and inequality and invest in the welfare of people by promoting regional transport networks and connectivity, trade facilitation, digitalization, sustainable urban development, rural revitalization and sustainable energy and paying attention to those member States in special situations, namely the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

456. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for 2025.

Programme 17 Economic development in Europe

457. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

458. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), as well as for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information for 2023, and reiterated their support to the work of ECE.

459. A delegation indicated that it placed high value on the role that the Commission had been playing in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by countries in the ECE region, while assisting them with its expertise and offering a very useful platform for dialogue for all interested parties and stakeholders. The delegation also commended the Commission for its engagement in bringing forward the legal framework for norms and standards and in facilitating economic integration and cooperation among the Commission's member States.

460. A delegation expressed the belief that ECE had to work in a specific environment that, in recent years, had been marked by conflicts, which had seriously affected most of the countries of the region and all aspects of the Commission's work. The delegation indicated that that environment, as well as insufficient funding, had presented challenges for ECE and congratulated the Commission for being able to find the appropriate policy niches on which to focus its promotion of regional cooperation, as well as for the excellent work it had done.

461. A delegation indicated that it valued its own dynamic and outcome driven collaboration with ECE and commended the Commission for having demonstrated its reliability as a valued partner in assisting the delegation's Government in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals over the past few decades. The delegation indicated that it attached great importance to effective collaboration with ECE, which was aimed at supporting the delegation's Government on its transformative journey towards inclusive and sustainable development, noting that its cooperation with ECE spanned across various aspects of sustainable development, including the promotion of the green economy and environment management, the advancement of innovation and the facilitation of digital transformation. The delegation expressed recognition for the crucial role of ECE in facilitating economic integration and cooperation among its member States, as well as in promoting regional cooperation and integration as a means of achieving sustainable development in the region. It expressed its overall satisfaction with the proposed programme for 2025, in which all the main dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were outlined. Bearing in mind the multiple challenges in terms of environmental degradation and climate change, the delegation noted with satisfaction the results-oriented efforts in subprogramme 1, Environment, and subprogramme 7, Forests and the forest industry, and expressed the wish to engage constructively in the consultations to highlight the existing challenges and seek solutions. Lastly, the delegation stressed the crucial importance of the Commission's resilience against attempts to misuse that platform with the aim of undermining the sustainable development of States.

462. A delegation raised questions with regard to the level of the Commission's cooperation with the resident coordinator system, how important cooperation was for ECE and how ECE viewed cooperation in its everyday work.

463. A delegation welcomed the discussion at ECE on: upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; strengthening the regional response to the war against Ukraine and its continued support for Ukraine; holding a delegation that did not uphold those values and principles accountable; and the importance for ECE leadership to reflect those values and priorities. The delegation expressed its country's commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and its wish to continue its close partnership with ECE and other member States in order to accelerate the achievement of the Goals, in particular in Ukraine, and to promote regional cooperation, peace, security and prosperity in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

464. The same delegation expressed its appreciation for the Commission's efforts to help member State Governments, civil society, NGOs, the private sector and subnational governments to convene and cooperate in support of economic growth and the Sustainable Development Goals and applauded the Commission's Forum of Mayors, which facilitated knowledge-sharing and collaboration by cities around the region. The delegation also expressed its support for discussions on transport within the Commission's Inland Transport Committee, which had a positive impact well beyond Europe. Given its global impact, the delegation urged the Inland Transport Committee to remain vigilant, to ensure that it did not promote one set of regional regulations and agreements over other United Nations agreements. It was noted by the delegation that a truly global forum must look beyond any one region for creative ideas, listen to the needs of parties from various regions of the world and promote advanced technologies and innovation, regardless of geography, to meet the long-standing goals of road and vehicle safety, environmental protection and sustainability.

465. A delegation expressed its country's commitment to help in getting the Sustainable Development Goals "back on track" and in ensuring that the United Nations development system was better able to deliver in line with the priorities of the global South. It also welcomed the programme's ambitions towards the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. The delegation acknowledged that the Commission's norms, standards and conventions had a direct and positive impact on the lives of the region's citizens and, in many cases, had been adopted around the globe as "best practices". The delegation indicated that it placed high value on the Commission's standing as a well-tested and reliable platform for technical experts to regularly cooperate and develop innovative approaches to pressing economic challenges.

466. The same delegation noted that, in 2023, the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on the conclusions and recommendations for the ECE programme, as another delegation had declined to withdraw language requesting that the references to the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, held in Nicosia in 2022, and the Nicosia ministerial statement on education for sustainable development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/2.Add.1 and ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/2.Add.2) be deleted. The delegation expressed recognition for and acknowledged that there were portions of the Commission's programme that did not align with a delegation's national position but noted that the Committee needed to remain within its technical remit. The delegation expressed its commitment to working constructively with every delegation to fulfil the joint and several obligations involved in upholding the values of the Charter and was optimistic that others would do the same. The delegation stated that it would be regrettable for the voice of the Committee to be muted on such an important topic and added that it warmly anticipated a constructive approach at the present session. The delegation affirmed its country's commitment to working collaboratively with the Organization and its Member States to advance international cooperation aimed at economic, social and environmental development.

467. Another delegation emphasized that it was categorically opposed to the inclusion of the ministerial declaration of the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the Nicosia ministerial statement on education for sustainable development among the legislative mandates, as the delegation had not been allowed to participate in that conference and had not had the opportunity to take part in the development and approval of its final documents, which it cited as a

violation of the rules. The delegation stated that the ministerial declaration contained politicized statements that were unacceptable. The delegation also did not agree with the inclusion in the list of mandates of Economic and Social Council resolution [2023/21](#), on the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). The delegation stated that the resolution did not create a new mandate, but only contained a request to the Secretary-General to allocate additional funding from the regular budget in support of the rapid response mechanism. The delegation added that it had repeatedly noted that it considered such requests unreasonable due to the sufficiency of the current number of staff servicing the Aarhus Convention. The delegation also noted that the Aarhus Convention was a separate international legal instrument and that most of its participants were developed countries. The delegation expressed the belief that it was unfair to shift the financial burden associated with the operation of the instrument that those countries had created to all Member States. Furthermore, the delegation indicated that ECE decision A (70) entitled “Economic and social effects of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine” should not be considered a mandate of the Commission, as that resolution had been adopted by a vote, was openly against one State in nature and contradicted the historical mandate of the Commission to promote concerted actions by member States in the interests of the economic development and integration of the pan-European region. The delegation noted separately that, according to paragraph 1 of the terms of reference of the ECE, as well as rule 40 of its rules and procedures, the Commission may not take any action against any country without the consent and agreement of the Government of that country; it would therefore insist on the removal of the mention of those documents from the programme.

468. A delegation expressed the belief that ECE played a crucial role in facilitating economic integration and cooperation in the ECE region by supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

469. A delegation commended ECE on its developing remarkable practices in many areas, such as in relation to the sustainable economy, including in the areas of transport and energy, economic cooperation and integration, and noted that these were matters at the very heart of cooperation in the Benelux Union, which the delegation’s country was chairing in 2024. As an encouragement, the delegation indicated that certain concrete results that had been achieved by ECE could inspire the programme of work of the Benelux Union for 2025, or even the multi-annual programme for the period 2025–2029.

470. A delegation acknowledged the crucial role played by ECE in the establishment of international norms for trade, as well as technological innovation and bioenvironmental issues, and confirmed its continued support for the various initiatives of the Commission. The delegation stressed the fact that the programme, which was important, had not been adopted in 2023, hoped that that would not be the case in 2024 and confirmed its readiness to be involved constructively in the upcoming discussions, to ensure so that the programme would be adopted.

471. Several delegations asked how important hybrid and virtual conferencing was to the Commission’s work with member States and other political actors and how effective it was in assuring the Commission’s mandated service delivery.

472. With regard to subprogramme 2, Transport, the delegation of a landlocked developing country welcomed in particular the ambitious plans outlined in the subprogramme and expressed its readiness to closely cooperate with the Commission on the implementation of its deliverables.

473. With regard to subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, a delegation highlighted the special attention it paid to the subprogramme, given that the delegation considered access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, as stipulated in paragraph 20.71, to be an indispensable precondition for sustainable development. In that context, the delegation sought elaboration on the efforts of ECE to assist the countries of the region when it came to the energy transition, bearing in mind the concept of “just transition”.

474. With regard to subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population, a delegation reiterated its strong support for a broad area of activities under the subprogramme. The delegation expressed its particular interest in the actions of ECE on smart sustainable cities, as mentioned in paragraphs 20.123 and 20.124, and sought additional information on the matter of smart sustainable cities. The delegation further inquired about how the division of labour was conducted and about cooperation with UN-Habitat. Another delegation commended the work done by ECE and highlighted and welcomed in particular the subprogramme's lessons learned and planned change relating to population ageing, noting that population ageing was a global phenomenon and that enhanced information-sharing on ageing-related policies was very important for Member States in mainstreaming ageing while adjusting to demographic change.

Conclusions and recommendations

475. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [78/244](#), consider the programme plan for programme 17, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 18 Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

476. At its 8th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

477. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and for the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information in 2023. The important work of the Commission in strengthening economic ties between countries in the region and with other countries and regions of the world, with a view to advancing towards a more inclusive, sustainable development model, was highlighted.

478. A delegation recognized that the Commission had established itself as an invaluable and legitimate forum for political dialogue and for reaching regional consensus and articulating agreements that could enable Latin America and the Caribbean to influence the reconfiguration of the global architecture in a way that was more in line with the objectives of its creation and the needs of its peoples.

479. Another delegation recognized the long-standing work of the Commission as a stronghold for critical thinking and knowledge production in the region that had helped countries in the development of policies and said that its expertise could be particularly helpful for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly as countries in the region struggled to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The demonstrated capacity of the Commission to provide informed analysis, quality technical assistance based on scientific evidence, and strategic guidance for the formulation of effective public policies was acknowledged. The delegation highlighted the need to promote the diversification of productive structures through innovation and the incorporation of new technologies. The same delegation emphasized that innovation and the incorporation of new technologies was an indispensable condition for enhancing the capabilities in the region to generate greater value added in production and to position the region favourably in the transition to a sustainable energy model.

480. A delegation emphasized that the Commission played a crucial role in fostering the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean by supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another delegation expressed its support for the Commission's firm commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through its broad agenda of equality and social development, which addressed the many dimensions of inequality and poverty. The same delegation appreciated the gender perspective and disability inclusion in the Commission's operational activities.

481. A delegation noted the alignment of the proposed programme plan with the United Kingdom-Latin America strategic framework, which is focused on four main policy pillars: values, climate, trade, and defence and security. Another delegation underscored the relevance of the cluster approach promoted by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to increase productivity, productive development and inclusive growth of countries, including the pillars of strengthening macroeconomics for development.

482. The close cooperation of the Commission with various institutions in Chile was appreciated. Additional information was requested on how the Commission interacted with the resident coordinator system and the United Nations development system and the relevance and importance of that cooperation and consultation.

483. A delegation was encouraged by the ambition to ensure inclusive economic growth throughout the proposed programme plan as an essential aspect to address the needs of marginalized groups. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had reversed 18 years of growth in women's labour force participation in the region. The same delegation asked how programme managers could ensure inclusivity within programmatic activities.

484. With respect to subprogramme 1, International trade, integration and infrastructure, support was expressed for the objectives outlined related to the use of digital trade (para 21.22 (a)) and logistics (para 21.22 (b)). The same delegation requested an assessment of progress or planned progress in those two areas.

485. With respect to subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, appreciation was expressed for the progress made on policies to accelerate digital transformation. The same delegation sought clarification regarding figure 21.III and planned activities for 2025 and beyond, including how the subprogramme might take advantage of advances in artificial intelligence to accelerate further progress.

486. With respect to resource mobilization, a delegation said that the region was lagging behind in such efforts and asked the Commission to provide more information about what was being done in the region. With reference to Result 2 of

subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, which concerned strengthened resource mobilization, the same delegation asked whether anything else in line with that objective was being undertaken, such as studies on specific needs and challenges faced by the region in general or specific countries.

487. A delegation expressed strong support for the Commission's efforts under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The delegation noted that 20 per cent of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean did not have access to social protection programmes, putting the most vulnerable at risk, and welcomed the Commission's efforts to use lessons learned to deliver essential technical assistance to tackle issues affecting those in need. Another delegation appreciated the emphasis, in the proposed programme plan, on expanding social protection systems to include informal and independent workers, many of whom were women or individuals from socially excluded groups, including people with disabilities. The same delegation requested additional information on engagement with civil society and other experts to help shape the initiative's focus on the specific needs of informal workers.

488. The importance of subprogramme 5, Gender equality and women's autonomy, was highlighted by delegations. One delegation expressed concern at the high number of femicides in 2022, as noted in paragraph 21.76, and requested information on the figures for 2023. The same delegation expressed appreciation for the Commission's continuous work to mitigate the consequences of those horrendous crimes and welcomed the initiative to provide a specialized course on measuring gender-based violence against women. The Commission's efforts to train government officials and stakeholders to better inform policymaking in the measurement of gender-based violence, as illustrated in figure 21.XI, were commended. The same delegation requested clarification on the specific skills acquired by the stakeholders and government officials and asked how those skills were essential to further reducing violence against women. A delegation welcomed the emphasis on improving the availability of gender statistics and the capacity of States to promote gender equality. Another delegation reiterated its support for gender equality and women's empowerment as cross-cutting elements in the sustainable development strategies of the countries in the region.

489. On subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, a delegation welcomed the proposed focus on a rights-based approach to sustainable development and human settlements. The importance of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) was highlighted. Delegations remarked on the progress achieved in terms of increased access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, including consideration of people's environmental concerns, as well as the Commission's support in that regard.

490. The meaningful work of subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, and subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organization, to support the implementation of national development programmes and strategic reforms to benefit implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was noted. With respect to subprogramme 11, a delegation asked if the Commission had considered additional action to support Haiti and expressed its support for addressing the current challenges in the country. Another delegation highlighted and welcomed the lessons learned and planned change under subprogramme 12 related to digital inclusion, to support countries left behind and promote digital transformation in Caribbean countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

491. The Committee commended ECLAC for its efforts to promote the economic and social development of the regions, and underlined the importance of the Commission's role in ensuring regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable development and fostering strong economic relations among countries, both within the region and with other countries of the world, in accordance with its mandate.

492. The Committee commended the efforts of the Commission for its work with the countries of the regions in exploring measures and raising awareness to address and fight poverty and inequalities.

493. The Committee reiterated the need to promote coordinated actions to foster integration, inclusive and resilient economic recovery, and sustainable development in the regions, with a gender perspective, in accordance with the mandate of the Commission.

494. The Committee commended the Commission's plans to increase its work on social protection, while also promoting health and educational policies, as well as labour and social inclusion, in accordance with its mandate.

495. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 7

Sustainable development and human settlements

Result 3

In the title of the result, replace "circular economy" with "sustainable consumption and production patterns, including circular economy,".

Paragraph 21.108

In the first sentence, replace "circular economy" with "sustainable consumption and production patterns, including circular economy,".

Table 21.21

Item 7

After "urban areas", insert "the reduction of waste generation, the needs of the countries of the region for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and for climate change adaptation, the needs of the countries of the region in the fight against plastic pollution".

Paragraph 21.126 (b)

After "applied research", insert "in a variety of areas, including the issue of increasing public sector workforce diversity and the use of artificial intelligence by the public sector,".

Programme 19

Economic and social development in Western Asia

496. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 22\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

497. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme and for the work carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

498. The view was expressed that the Commission played a crucial role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region by supporting Member States in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A delegation expressed that its country valued all six subprogrammes of the programme and welcomed the programme's focus on ambition towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the Commission's important work for the region but also for the United Nations as a whole, and expressed that the Commission could count on its country's support. A different delegation noted that subprogrammes included in the proposed programme plan for 2025 fit the needs of Western Asia and the priorities of Member States of the Arab region.

499. The importance of measuring tangible programme results through the implementation of strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound indicators in the 2025 plan for ESCWA was reaffirmed. The same delegation expressed appreciation for the commitment of ESCWA to equitable and inclusive social development, with particular consideration of the needs of persons in vulnerable situations, such as women, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

500. A delegation reiterated its country's commitment to Western Asia and expressed that it would continue to work collaboratively with the Organization and Member States to advance international cooperation towards economic, social and environmental development.

501. Appreciation was expressed for the fruitful cooperation efforts deployed by the Commission on the wide range of issues related to advancing social and economic development. The same delegation recalled that its country spared no effort for engaging in efficient active cooperation in favour of a solidarity-based multilateralism. The delegation noted that in 2023, its country cooperated with the Commission in several fields, including the fields of technology and innovation. In the same context, the delegation expressed that its country had been a pioneer on different levels, from cybersecurity and agricultural technology to green energy; it had also promoted green industrialization through small and medium-sized enterprises and the export sector. The same delegation expressed the view that the Commission remained a brilliant source of expertise and reliable data availed through the different policy simulation tools and knowledge products. The delegation reiterated its country's full support for the Commission and its planned activities and expressed that its country and ESCWA would continue to capitalize on their fruitful cooperation in a range of domains.

502. A delegation noted that the ESCWA team had to work in an extremely difficult environment, marked by political and military conflicts, severe economic crises, and deep social contrasts, and the need for collaboration with various kinds of local partners, which presented multiple challenges to the Commission; in this regard, the delegation congratulated ESCWA for the excellent work done.

503. A question was asked as to what were the opportunities that the Commission considered in the preparation of its programme of work for 2025.

504. A question was also raised as to whether the use of hybrid and virtual modalities in providing meetings was still relevant in fulfilling the mandated service delivery. Another delegation sought further information as to how important hybrid meetings were for the Commission's work with regard to inclusivity, in order to have the participation of as many Member States and programmatic actors as possible.

505. A delegation expressed that its country was ready to cooperate with the Commission on matters of common interest to ESCWA and the delegation's country. The same delegation recalled the expression of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the cooperation between ESCAP and ESCWA in addressing the problem of sand and dust storms in the region and sought further information as to how important the related activities, which were vital to the countries in the region, were for ESCWA.

506. In the context of sharing best practices with other regional commissions, a delegation expressed the view that it would be good if ESCWA developed some capacity for work as a think tank. In that connection, the delegation noted, for instance, that the economic and social development of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean had benefited a lot from that kind of work done by ECLAC, and expressed that it would like to see such benefits spread to Western Asia, through production of knowledge, serious policy analysis and recommendations.

507. Further information was sought on the Commission's cooperation and coordination with the resident coordinator system.

508. With regard to paragraph 22.20 under subprogramme 1, Climate change and natural resource sustainability, a delegation sought further update on the results of five Member States presenting their water and climate commitments to potential donors, multilateral development banks and climate funds, and whether funding had been identified or confirmed. The same delegation, in reference to paragraph 22.26, expressed that it welcomed the proposal to develop a methodology and tool for comprehensive assessments of food systems and their sustainability, with a focus on outputs and environmental impact, and sought further information as to how widely that might be applied and on what timescale.

509. In reference to paragraph 22.59 under subprogramme 4, Statistics, the information society and technology, a delegation congratulated those involved in the development and use of a harmonized consumer price index and sought further information as to whether the index might be useful more widely, including internationally.

510. With regard to subprogramme 6, Governance and conflict prevention, a delegation outlined the importance of the subprogramme and expressed the view that, taking into account the specifics of the region, governance should be a transversal issue common for all subprogrammes. In that connection, it was recommended that in the future all subprogrammes include elements related to governance which would increase the effectiveness and the impact of all activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

511. **The Committee commended ESCWA for its efforts in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region, in accordance with its mandate.**

512. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for 2025.**

Programme 20 Human rights

513. At its 13th meeting, on 21 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2025 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

514. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2025 and for the work carried out by OHCHR.

515. OHCHR was recognized with appreciation by a delegation as the leading United Nations entity on human rights, and its continued emphasis on mainstreaming human rights throughout the United Nations system and around the world was noted. In that connection, appreciation was expressed for the engagement of OHCHR with a wide range of stakeholders in executing its mission, including civil society, along with Member States, other international and regional organizations, and national and human rights mechanisms. Another delegation encouraged OHCHR to continue to implement the programme, mainstreaming human rights across the United Nations system, advancing the right to development, increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights issues, supporting the human rights treaty bodies, providing advisory services and technical cooperation, and supporting the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms.

516. Gratitude was expressed to OHCHR for its unwavering commitment to protecting and defending human rights in increasingly challenging times. The same delegation expressed its continuing support for the work of OHCHR, highlighting that human rights was a bedrock of its country's foreign policy, firmly anchored in its basic law, and that its engagement with regard to gender equality and marginalized groups had gained additional momentum with the introduction of a feminist foreign policy. The delegation noted that its country's engagement in human rights was comprehensive, covering all the universal human rights, from civil and political to economic, social and cultural rights, and from human rights at the interfaces with climate change to challenges coming with the digital age, to name just a few. The delegation also noted that its country believed that human rights began at home and that it had therefore undergone a fourth universal periodic review examination in a self-critical manner and had begun to implement the 283 recommendations that were supported by its country.

517. A delegation expressed the view that global human rights governance was facing severe challenges in all parts of the world and expressed support for OHCHR, as the human rights component of the United Nations Secretariat, for continuing its dialogue and cooperation with Member States, valuing the authoritative information provided by Governments, working objectively, impartially and not selectively in line with its mandate, and rejecting the politicization of human rights and double standards. The

same delegation noted its country's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, actively participating in global human rights governance and promoting constructive dialogue and cooperation on human rights issues among all parties so as to safeguard human rights through security, promote human rights through development and advance human rights through cooperation. The delegation further highlighted that its country had always advocated practising true multilateralism and following the concept of putting human first as a human-centric approach. The delegation noted that the adopted resolutions sponsored by its country included those on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights, the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights, and promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities, and urged OHCHR to take tangible measures to ensure the effective implementation of those resolutions.

518. Support was expressed for the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as defined in General Assembly resolution 48/141, and a delegation noted that its country was aware of the comprehensive nature of the Office's functioning, recalling that OHCHR was a unit of the Secretariat, not an agency or a separate programme. The delegation expressed the view that it could not agree with the use of unspecified terminology and concepts that had not been agreed upon at the intergovernmental level. The delegation noted the attempts by OHCHR to go beyond its mandate and cited the provision of assistance to the human rights treaty bodies as an example thereof. In that connection, the delegation reiterated that the role of the Secretariat, in particular OHCHR, was to provide technical services to the human rights treaty bodies and that OHCHR did not have the authority to improve the working methods of the treaty bodies or to provide them with expert support.

519. It was highlighted that the work of OHCHR stemmed directly from mandating resolutions, including resolution 48/141 establishing OHCHR and the Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions listed under paragraph 24.11 in the "Legislative mandates" section of the proposed programme plan. In that connection, the delegation expressed the view that the work of OHCHR was based heavily on initiatives adopted through the intergovernmental process.

520. The view was expressed that the activities of the Human Rights Council and the many resolutions, meetings and other events should not be seen as a weakness of the system, but rather as reflecting the success of States in promoting specific issues related to human rights.

521. A delegation reiterated its country's commitment to OHCHR and expressed its intention to continue to work collaboratively with both the Organization and Member States to ensure the realization of human rights for all. The delegation emphasized the important role of OHCHR as the human rights-focused body in the United Nations system and expressed appreciation for the continued focus on responding to the most problematic human rights challenges around the world. The same delegation highlighted that, along with maintaining international peace and security and developing friendly relations among nations, the agenda of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms was explicitly fundamental to the core work and responsibilities of the United Nations.

522. The view was expressed by a delegation that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals was rooted in economic and political freedoms and the realization of the core human rights treaties. The delegation emphasized that the States had come together in December 2023 to reaffirm support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and expressed the view that it was their duty to protect it.

523. A delegation emphasized that it supported international development and work by intergovernmental organizations, including OHCHR, in support of development, but that it did not recognize the right to development. The delegation encouraged all Member States, regardless of their level of development, to implement their human rights obligations and commitments as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among others. In that connection, the delegation stated that it did not accept that the full realization of any right required resource transfers or debt forgiveness, or that a lack of development was a legitimate excuse for failure to implement defined, universally agreed human rights commitments, including those in the Universal Declaration and the International Covenant. Another delegation noted that the development agenda and the human rights agenda were intrinsically interrelated and that it was not possible to talk about development without taking a multidimensional approach centred on human rights. In that connection, the same delegation expressed the view that the degree of relative development of States could not be used as an instrument to promote violations of human rights and that States had the duty, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. A different delegation expressed the view that economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development and civil and political rights were mutually reinforcing and equally important. The same delegation called upon OHCHR to take into account all types of human rights, to holistically increase investment in economic, social and cultural rights, to carry out more substantive work in mainstreaming the right to development, especially in developing countries, to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development and to actively provide human rights technical assistance in line with the needs and priorities of the countries concerned.

524. A delegation said that its country attached utmost importance to the effective functioning of the United Nations human rights machinery and the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as prevention of the most serious violations, and expressed the view that those were essential for maintaining peace and security and ensuring peaceful and just outcomes worldwide. The delegation noted that more and more people were turning to the United Nations and its human rights mechanisms as a matter of last resort, which put additional strain on the treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders and on the work of OHCHR. In that connection, the delegation expressed the view that the provision of adequate funding for OHCHR was instrumental if the Office were to fulfil its core mandates. The improved programmatic cooperation with Member States and other partners, as well as the provision by OHCHR of technical assistance and expertise to States in fulfilling their human rights obligations and commitments, was noted with appreciation. The delegation stated that its country maintained a principled position on the interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of international human rights and humanitarian law and would continue to advocate strengthening the human rights component of humanitarian missions.

525. It was highlighted that Member States were to be committed procedurally and morally to respecting the decisions of the intergovernmental process in the Human Rights Council and to not seeking to use technical programmatic or budgetary processes to override such decisions, including those agreed upon by vote, or where they related to topics to which certain delegations were sensitive. In that context, the delegation noted that its country had not declined to support funding for any mandates for which it had voted against the resolution. The delegation expressed the view that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should not be used to litigate debates on terminology or human rights concepts and that the appropriate policy forum to hold such debates was the Council.

526. Efforts of the Office that were geared towards promoting and protecting human rights and ensuring their enjoyment and full realization by all persons in all forms through technical assistance, support for bodies and mechanisms of the human rights systems and, when appropriate, establishment of a presence in different countries were recognized. The delegation noted that, as its country had actively participated in the creation of the Human Rights Council in 2006 and been elected to the Council three times, most recently for the period 2019–2021, it could bear witness first-hand to the work done and efforts made by OHCHR. The delegation noted that human rights had always been a vital component of the foreign policy of its country, which participated in international discussions with regard to respecting the rights of minorities and defending the situation of the most vulnerable populations and with regard to human rights vulnerability in any specific situation. In that connection, the delegation noted that its country had undertaken intense domestic efforts with regard to social integration through social inclusion and had made progress in the fight against discrimination against the most vulnerable groups, the wider inclusion of all persons, the adoption of educational and other policies for inclusivity to promote equity in learning and employment and to decrease inequality in those areas, as well as in strengthening institutions and international bodies. Furthermore, the delegation stated that its country had worked towards modifying the legal framework to eliminate any discriminatory positions.

527. The Office was encouraged to continue to realize its vision for 2025 with regard to persons with disabilities and the gender perspective in human rights. In that connection, the delegation pointed out that the proposed programme indeed had a cross-sectional approach and proposed results in that regard.

528. A delegation reaffirmed its country's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and emphasized the critical role that the Human Rights Council played in increasing awareness at the international level of the critical nature of protecting and promoting human rights. The importance of the work of the international community, under the auspices of United Nations human rights mechanisms, to protect basic human rights and freedoms was also emphasized. The delegation expressed the view that chief among human rights and freedoms was the right to life. In that connection, the delegation stated that people all over the world faced daily violations of their human rights, including the right to life, and highlighted that chief among those people were the Palestinian people in Gaza and other occupied territory.

529. A delegation said that its country firmly defended the protection and promotion of human rights as a cornerstone of its foreign policy and recognized it as the foundation for achieving lasting peace, security and sustainable development. The view was expressed that the world was grappling with significant human rights challenges and that poverty, discrimination, armed conflict and the harmful effects of climate change continued to undermine the dignity inherent to all human beings. In that connection, the delegation reaffirmed the imperative need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons without discrimination of any type, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups, such as girls and women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, as well as the LGBTQ+ community, and also to protect the environment, all of which should be guided by universality, objectivity, impartiality, indivisibility and non-selectivity as principles.

530. A question was asked about the new OHCHR management plan and how it related to the proposed programme plan. A delegation expressed the view that OHCHR should embrace diversity and take on talent from a wide range of sources, stating that it looked forward to increased transparency in the management of the Office and in addressing the imbalance in the geographical representation of the Office's staff, especially high-ranking officials.

531. A delegation expressed its country's readiness to work with OHCHR in its effort to counter discrimination on all grounds, advancing the rights of children and women, raising awareness of human rights, responding to the needs of the vulnerable for protection and addressing situations of international concern, as identified by the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations bodies. Support was expressed for the continued engagement of OHCHR with Member States and all relevant actors to assist them in their efforts to promote and protect human rights.

532. The efforts of the High Commissioner were recognized, especially the work to fully guarantee enjoyment of human rights in an international context marked by more and more armed conflict. The delegation expressed appreciation for the proposed programme plan, which continued to ensure the importance of human rights in the United Nations and around the world. The same delegation expressed its country's support for all measures to facilitate the efforts of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and OHCHR.

533. A delegation highlighted that the Human Rights Council was currently chaired by its country, which had also been an active member of that very important organ in the promotion and the protection of human rights, including on aspects related to gender, artificial intelligence and education. The support provided by the Secretary-General to the work of the Council, both institutionally and organizationally, for the promotion and protection of human rights was commended. The delegation recalled its country's highly valued initiatives and active role at the international level, reflecting the country's unwavering dedication to human rights.

534. Regarding the proposed programme plan, a delegation applauded the overall strategy of OHCHR and welcomed the assessment of OHCHR achievement against its previous deliverables as a template for its goals in the coming year.

535. With regard to paragraph 24.4, in which it was stated that OHCHR would provide support to Member States upon request, a delegation sought further clarification on what had happened in cases in which human rights violations were carried out or perpetrated by the States themselves, on who was responsible for making such requests for intervention by OHCHR and on how such cases were addressed.

536. With regard to addressing the rehabilitation needs of victims of torture and slavery, as discussed in paragraph 24.6, a delegation stated, on the basis of the experience of its country, that it was important to encourage more support and implementation of programmes that effectively addressed the rehabilitation needs of victims of war and slavery. In that connection, the same delegation expressed the view that, in the absence of adequate support, especially after United Nations interventions in crisis zones, sustainable peace was not possible when victims remained traumatized. The delegation highlighted that, after more than two decades of peace, its country was still facing the negative effects of traumatized war victims who did not go through the actual rehabilitation processes, and emphasized that silencing the guns in conflict zones was one thing, but dealing with the other ugly impacts of the crisis on victims was essential in maintaining lasting peace.

537. A delegation noted that a particular focus of its country's engagement worldwide addressed accountability for grave human rights violations because post-conflict societies needed accountability and reconciliation to embark on a peaceful and stable future. In that connection, the delegation emphasized that its country engaged with OHCHR to accelerate the processes, from the time when an evidence collection mandate was adopted to the moment when actual evidence collection started. The same delegation noted that evidence collection regularly took several months, which was enough time for witnesses and evidence to disappear, and noted with appreciation that OHCHR had presented a concept note to address that challenge.

538. A delegation welcomed subprogramme 1 (a), Human rights mainstreaming, subprogramme 1 (b), Right to development, and subprogramme 1 (c), Research and analysis, to enhance knowledge and awareness of human rights.

539. The Office's advisory role and support for the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and other normative bodies that were created by virtue of the treaties to promote dialogue and reporting with countries were highlighted.

540. In reference to subprogramme 1 (a), Human rights mainstreaming, strong support was expressed for the element relating to human rights mainstreaming and its planned results as a method to ensure integration of understanding, promotion and protection of human rights into the wider work of the United Nations. In the connection, further information was sought on how OHCHR would ensure that human rights mainstreaming was more fully embedded across the United Nations system and as to what benefits OHCHR anticipated from that mainstreaming in 2025. Another delegation, referring to paragraph 24.21, asked what "the wide dissemination of a toolkit" was. The same delegation, referring to paragraph 24.25, sought further information on OHCHR support to States in their budgeting processes. A different delegation reaffirmed the interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights, saying that the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world rested on upholding all human rights, and therefore they must be safeguarded in a fair and equal manner. The same delegation expressed the view that adherence to the core principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity was vital. The delegation expressed appreciation for the progress made by the United Nations human rights programme, especially for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, and underlined the linkage between the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights. The same delegation expressed appreciation for the Office's plan to engage with the United Nations development system through participation in inter-agency forums and cooperation with United Nations country teams. The delegation expressed support for the programme's focus on the right to development, underscored the need for urgent operationalization of that inalienable right of all peoples and welcomed the integration of disability inclusion into the work of the Office.

541. With regard to subprogramme 1 (b), Right to development, a delegation made reference to result 3, anti-corruption policies and practices to address the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, and expressed the view that the damaging effect of corruption on societies and people was very often underestimated and, in that regard, enquired about the further plans of OHCHR for coordination with other relevant entities, such as UNODC. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the development of such policies and practices and for the provision of support to States in that regard. In reference to paragraphs 24.34 and 24.35 and figure 24.I, a delegation welcomed the positive outcome of exceeding the planned target of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development from 2023, but noted that the planned target was adjusted significantly downward for 2025 and sought an explanation for the possible impact of having to decrease the number of participants. In that connection, the delegation asked whether the lessons learned from the previous years could be used.

542. Regarding subprogramme 1 (c), Research and analysis, a delegation emphasized the importance of offering defenders of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent the opportunity to make their efforts known. A different delegation made reference to paragraph 24.43 (e), under the "Strategy" section, and expressed concern regarding the efforts to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, given its country's long-standing and well-known position on that issue. Another delegation, referring to paragraph 24.51, sought clarification on

the mandate of the human rights defenders training programme. Another delegation highlighted the enhanced contemporary importance of research and analysis in areas such as the elimination of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, and combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

543. With regard to subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, a delegation asked why the 2025 target was lower than the 2024 target in figure 24.VI. The same delegation made reference to databases and substantive digital materials that were part of table 24.14 and enquired about the specific data that OHCHR would collect and whether such data collection would exceed the mandates of the treaty bodies, respect the judicial sovereignty of the States concerned and be limited to public data within the United Nations system. A different delegation reaffirmed its country's abiding support for and unwavering commitment to the Human Rights Council's allied mechanisms for active engagement with special procedure mandate holders and its constructive approach to communications and regular reporting to the treaty bodies. The delegation expressed the view that human rights mechanisms yielded the most favourable results when the highest standards of objectivity, transparency and professionalism were maintained, which remained the basis of trust, mutual respect and confidence between the States and OHCHR in discharging their respective mandates. The same delegation stressed that all special procedures and treaty bodies ought to adhere to the code of conduct, in particular in the case of public communications issued by them. In that connection, the delegation expressed appreciation for the fact that several special procedure mandate holders had repeatedly raised concerns about the dire human rights situation in Gaza in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

544. In the context of subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, appreciation was expressed for efforts to maintain and publicize the potential for policy support from the Office. The delegation expressed the view that such provisions were essential to advancing the effective protection of all human rights through enhanced capacity-building. Another delegation, in reference to paragraph 24.75 and figure 24.VIII, noted that there was constant progress in the number of Member States that took action to enhance legislation and policies that integrated economic, social and cultural rights. The same delegation asked why the planned target for 2025 was 93 Member States, while the actual 2021 result was 62, and whether that planned target meant that about half the States Members of the United Nations were not seeking to improve their policies or legislation on economic, social and cultural rights. In that connection, the delegation asked whether action could be taken by OHCHR to improve the situation. A different delegation, citing the "Substantive deliverables" category of table 24.16, sought further clarification on technical support and substantive services to human rights components in peace missions, including preparing inputs on the human rights situation mandated by the Security Council. Another delegation expressed support for the technical assistance mandate of OHCHR, which remained one of the most preferred means of promoting universal respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. The same delegation expressed the view that the technical assistance mandate should be offered with the consent of the State concerned, as it was proven to be most favourable when that assistance supplemented States' national human rights and development priorities, and emphasized the need to enhance those synergies. Another delegation welcomed the advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities with regard to effectively protecting and promoting the enjoyment of all human rights and reducing inequalities.

545. A delegation expressed the view that subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, remained a crucial means by which to

enhance capacity-building and thus reduce inequalities, contributing ultimately to the acceleration of the implementation of the Goals. The Office's efforts to explore avenues for collaboration with Member States, including on capacity-building and human rights, across various countries were praised.

546. With regard to subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, appreciation was expressed for the continued support provided to the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Another delegation noted the administrative and financial difficulties faced by OHCHR in discharging its mandate and expressed regret that the Office had been forced to postpone some important mandated activities because of the liquidity crisis. The same delegation stressed the need for States Members of the United Nations to pay their annual contributions in a timely manner and underscored the need for equitable geographical representation.

547. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, delegations expressed views related to the resources of OHCHR.

Conclusions and recommendations

548. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 20, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 21

International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

549. At its 3rd meeting, on 14 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 25\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

550. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and indicated their support for its mandate to provide humanitarian assistance and international protection to forcibly displaced persons and achieve durable solutions. A number of delegations acknowledged the crucial role of UNHCR as the main international agency for the protection of those categories of persons, in particular in the context of the increasing number of people around the world that were forced to leave their homes. It was recognized that the global refugee situation remained grim in the face of regional conflicts, economic downturn, climate change, natural disasters and a multitude of other factors.

551. A delegation observed that, with more than 130 million displaced persons estimated worldwide, there was a significant strain on the humanitarian system and that, while humanitarian needs continued to increase, the humanitarian system faced significant financial constraints. The view was expressed that the impact of those dynamics were felt not only by the people affected and their host communities, but also by UNHCR and other agencies. In that regard, the delegation stressed the importance of inter-agency cooperation and efficiency, which were especially vital in

times of financial constraints. It was observed that, even though efficiency had been a key issue on the humanitarian policy agenda for a decade, it had gained additional importance as humanitarian needs grew while resources decreased. The delegation further opined that efficiency required focus on one's mandate, reliance on comparative advantages and improved coordination of the division of labour between UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration and the humanitarian system as a whole.

552. Some delegations welcomed the comprehensive presentation in the programme plan. A delegation observed that, even though the title of the programme included a reference to assistance to refugees, the objective did not include such a reference, and expressed the view that the question of assistance was not emphasized enough in the proposed programme plan.

553. While a delegation welcomed the reference in the programme to the role of the Global Compact on Refugees in achieving sustainable solutions for those affected, another delegation expressed reservations about the Compact, noting that it was not legally binding. The delegation stated that its implementation should be coordinated and aligned with the rules and regulations of the host country.

554. Several delegations welcomed the Global Refugee Forum held in December 2023 and expressed their appreciation for the high number of pledges made to support the work of UNHCR. In that regard, a delegation indicated that it looked forward to working closely with UNHCR, fellow Member States and with refugees themselves to sustain the momentum generated by the Forum in 2023. The delegation was committed to help to drive forward the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. Delegations expressed that, while the progress was commendable, they were concerned about the emergent trend of new displacements outpacing durable solutions and the increasingly protracted nature of refugees' displacement.

555. It was noted that, in addition to maintaining progress through the Global Compact on Refugees process, longer-term approaches were required to address the challenging landscape, in particular through the prioritization of stronger partnerships with development actors to foster capacity-building and inclusion. The view was expressed that development-led activities, especially education, were essential in laying the foundations for solutions to support both refugees and host communities alike.

556. A delegation opined that UNHCR was the principal international organization responsible for addressing issues of forced migration and expressed its conviction that the United Nations should play a central coordinating role in the use of multilateral cooperation mechanisms to solve large-scale migration crises. Several delegations noted that approaches to overcoming migration challenges should comply with the basic principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and that the measures taken should not violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Another delegation noted with appreciation the efforts of UNHCR over the past year to strengthen international coordination in refugee protection and emergency response efforts, while noting that refugee protection should adhere to the principle of neutrality. It was also emphasized that UNHCR needed to focus on the root causes of displacement.

557. A delegation noted that low- and middle-income countries hosted around 90 per cent of refugee populations and displaced people and expressed the view that their efforts should be met with sustained and predictable support by the international community. In that regard, one delegation expressed its concern regarding the concept of equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing as prescribed in the Global Compact on Refugees. Several delegations emphasized the importance of equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing and opined that, while it was mentioned in the programme plan, it should have been reflected more prevalently as a top priority for UNHCR.

558. Several delegations noted that their countries hosted large refugee populations and provided support to refugees, including employment opportunities, housing and health and education programmes. In that context, delegations noted with appreciation the support of UNHCR in responding to the needs of the refugees, while also observing that appeals for international financial assistance were not fully met.

559. The view was expressed that equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing and the creation of an overall global environment that was conducive to addressing the root causes of displacement and achieving durable solutions for refugees were extremely important. It was recalled that, in its resolution [73/151](#), the General Assembly had mandated the measurement of the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees. A delegation opined that the path to addressing the long-standing concern of refugee-hosting countries remained insufficient and emphasized that the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees needed to be an integral part of UNHCR advocacy efforts with donors and partners.

560. A delegation opined that voluntary returns and repatriation were the preferred solution and that durable solutions were required for creating conditions conducive to returns. The view was expressed that UNHCR should enhance its advocacy efforts to encourage States capable of doing so to expand resettlement opportunities for refugees, while ensuring that resettlement programmes were an international responsibility and that they were not provided at the cost of regular migration pathways for nationals of refugee-hosting countries.

561. Several delegations emphasized the importance of durable solutions for displaced populations. In that regard, the increase in resettlement activities and operations was noted and welcomed, including the provision of housing, employment, access to health care, education and social protection, which required multi-stakeholder engagement. A delegation underscored the importance of the engagement of UNHCR with other United Nations agencies and development partners to promote durable solutions in the broader context of the development agenda. Several delegations called for increased engagement by UNHCR with international donors to address financing gaps in responding to humanitarian crises.

562. It was opined that a study on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on protection and assistance efforts was important and that it would help to identify and address some of the root causes.

563. Under the strategy and external factors, and in respect of paragraph 25.3, a delegation noted that the strategy did not include a reference to resettlement and to voluntary repatriation of refugees, which the delegation noted were equally important factors of durable solutions.

564. With respect to paragraph 25.3 (d), several delegations noted with appreciation the reference to follow-up activities regarding the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 and expressed the view that support from UNHCR in terms of pledge accountability and monitoring was important for ensuring that such commitments would result in a tangible impact and would further the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

565. With respect to paragraph 25.5 (a), a delegation welcomed further information on the statement that the work was expected to result in significant advances in the response to refugee situations through more predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing.

566. With regard to paragraph 25.8 on inter-agency coordination and liaison, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the inclusion of the reference to the UNHCR Institutional Plan on Solutions to Internal Displacement and opined that it offered useful direction for future engagement on the issue. In that regard, a question was

raised on whether the expected impact of that initiative could be enhanced by situating UNHCR priorities and intentions for internally displaced persons within the findings of the recent independent review of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee response to internal displacement.

567. With regard to paragraph 25.9 on integration of a gender perspective, the view was expressed that it was important to see ongoing commitments to strengthening activities on preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Delegations expressed their support for the commitment of UNHCR to including a gender perspective and disability inclusion framework to mitigate the needs of the most vulnerable, and some delegations welcomed the planned evaluation in 2025 on prevention of and response to gender-based violence. Clarification was sought on how UNHCR would mainstream a victim/survivor-centred approach in the context of the planned evaluation for 2025, and another question was raised on whether UNHCR had considered how to empower and further the important work of local refugee, women-led organizations, in particular in addressing gender-based violence in displacement contexts.

568. Another delegation noted the reference to psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence, and further clarification was sought on the type of psychosocial support services offered and if mental health services was part of those services provided to survivors. Clarification was also sought on whether psychosocial support services were offered to all persons of interest to UNHCR or only in relation to cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

569. With respect to the programme performance in 2023: increased commitment to respond to humanitarian crises, a delegation noted the significant increase in 2023 in the number of pledges to support refugees and their host communities, from 231 in 2021 and 58 in 2022, to 1,725 in 2023. It was noted that a single event in 2023, the Global Refugee Forum, accounted for over 1,600 pledges being made, and clarification was sought on whether the 1,600 pledges were real pledges. Clarification was also sought on whether UNHCR had considered if the Global Refugee Forum could be held more regularly, given its success.

570. With respect to planned result 2: enhanced inclusion of displaced people through digital cash payments, a delegation made reference to paragraph 25.18, expressed its appreciation that the planned performance target for 2023 regarding the percentage of displaced people receiving cash assistance through their own bank or mobile money accounts had been exceeded and welcomed the increased ambition for the coming years. In that regard, the delegation expressed the view that cash-based assistance was a key enabler of refugee self-sufficiency and economic inclusion.

571. With respect to planned result 3: increased prevalence of national and local partners in refugee response plans globally, a delegation referred to paragraph 25.21 and encouraged UNHCR to engage with a wide range of local, national and international operational partners. Clarification on how UNHCR planned to expand the number of community-based and local organizations participating in regional refugee response plans was sought.

572. With respect to the deliverables contained in table 25.1, a delegation requested further information regarding deliverable 20 relating to publications on a range of protection-related themes planned for 2024 and 2025. Another delegation sought clarification on deliverable 23, relating to humanitarian assistance missions undertaken by the UNHCR senior executive team, and specifically on the reasons why the figures ranged from 143 missions in 2023, to 75 in 2024 and 130 in 2025.

Conclusions and recommendations

573. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 22 Palestine refugees

574. At its 15th meeting, on 23 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 26)).

Discussion

575. Delegations expressed their appreciation and full support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for its diligent work in the preparation of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and the delivery of mandated activities in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 194 (III), 302 (IV), 74/83, 75/93 and 76/77. It was highlighted that delegations had voted in favour of extending the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 2026. The hard work of the Agency’s staff was recognized, and several delegations expressed their condolences for those who had tragically lost their lives while fulfilling their duties.

576. In recognition of the Agency’s important role in providing humanitarian assistance and acting as a stabilizing force in the region, a delegation emphasized that no other United Nations agency could deliver the scale of services in such a challenging operational context. The vital role of the Agency’s programme for progressing human development indicators and meeting the needs of affected persons was also noted with appreciation. Unfortunately, the lack of progress on the Middle East peace process meant that, until a solution could be reached, UNRWA would continue to provide for the basic needs of 5.9 million refugees. While recognizing that the Committee for Programme and Coordination was not the principal body for budgetary considerations, a delegation wondered whether, given the Agency’s important role in the current context, it might be prudent to consider how mandate delivery could be enhanced by taking a more systematic approach to funding from sustainable sources of income. In that context, clarification was sought on what contingency plans had been in place for any changes to planning assumptions, such as insufficient funding for UNRWA, attacks on staff and installations, violations of United Nations immunity, or access restrictions on supplies into Gaza.

577. Support was expressed for the Agency’s indispensable role in helping Palestinians in the occupied territory and in neighbouring Arab countries. The Agency’s contribution to providing education, health care and social services to millions of Palestinians living in difficult and often dangerous conditions in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic was greatly appreciated. A delegation noted that the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in recent months had been a real test for the Agency, which had lost 193 staff since 7 October 2023, who had given their lives to help suffering Palestinians in the face of a full-fledged military operation. The delegation also noted that UNRWA had been the target of a political campaign and accused of supporting Hamas, as a result of which a number of Western countries had withdrawn funding for the Agency, a move that had primarily affected Palestine refugees. However, a group of experts, led by

the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, Catherine Colonna, had confirmed the Agency's compliance with the principle of neutrality and its key role in providing assistance to Palestinians. An update was requested regarding the Agency's action plan based on the recommendations made by the group of experts, as well as information on how that plan might contribute to improved mandate delivery. The delegation called upon all donors to restore full funding for the Agency, welcomed the decision of several countries to take on additional financial commitments, and condemned attempts to discredit the Agency through disinformation campaigns. The delegation emphasized its continued commitment to make voluntary contributions on an annual basis to the Agency, given that its activities had an important stabilizing effect on the entire Middle East region. Delegations indicated their financial contributions. A delegation reiterated its call for the establishment of a long-term ceasefire in Gaza in accordance with Security Council resolution 2728 (2024), in the absence of a political settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the implementation of the two-State solution approved by the international community, with Israel and Palestine coexisting in peace and security within the 1967 borders.

578. Another delegation stood firm in its support of the Agency's crucial mandate of providing life-saving assistance and protection to Palestine refugees. The challenges faced by UNRWA under very difficult circumstances were recognized. Those challenges had become even more difficult in the face of the catastrophe in Gaza. UNRWA was commended for continuing to strive to fulfil its humanitarian mandates despite the adversities described in paragraph 26.3 and the impact on its activities, facilities and infrastructure. The uncertain situation in Gaza underscored the urgency of Member States' support for fulfilling the Agency's mandate. As noted in the proposed programme plan for 2025, it was not possible to properly estimate the scale and nature of the Agency's work in Gaza in 2025, as the situation kept worsening. Along the same lines, the situation on the ground prevented the Committee from duly assessing the operations of the Agency, owing to insufficient data on performance measures (para. 26.4).

579. The incorporation of a gender perspective in the Agency's initiatives in a cross-cutting manner was acknowledged. The inclusion of persons with disabilities across all fields of operations was also welcomed. Under subprogramme 3, Palestine refugees complete inclusive and equitable quality basic education, a delegation noted with satisfaction the emphasis on gender and disability sensitivity in the construction of schools, as stated in result 3 for 2025, reflecting the Agency's commitment to inclusivity and diversity in serving the Palestinian community. The delegation reaffirmed its continued support and intention to contribute further to the mandate of UNRWA and the well-being of the Palestinian people and informed the Committee of its upcoming vice-chairmanship, and later in 2025 chairmanship, of the UNRWA Advisory Commission. The view was expressed that consensus could be reached on the vital programme with the active engagement of all delegations, the technical support and advice of the secretariat and the leadership of UNRWA. To that end, the delegation encouraged other delegations to draw inspiration from past successes and the fact that the Committee had been able to find common ground on that programme, with a view to providing hope and assistance to those in need and fulfilling their duty to support those who relied on the United Nations.

580. Another delegation expressed support for the delivery of aid in Gaza, while working closely with various United Nations entities, including the World Food Programme, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as NGOs. Reviewing the proposed plan for 2025, a delegation asked why the programme did not include any reference to neutrality. Clarification was sought on the relevance of neutrality, especially under subprogramme 3. It was pointed out that further support for the principle of neutrality should be incorporated into the programme in the future.

581. In reference to subprogramme 2, Palestine refugees lead healthy lives, a delegation enquired about the results expected by the subprogramme for 2025. In addition, clarification was sought about whether it was possible to merge the issue of mental health into the work of subprogramme 2.

Conclusions and recommendations

582. The Committee reiterated support for the mandate of UNRWA and commended its staff for carrying out its invaluable work under an exceptionally difficult security, political and financial environment.

583. The Committee paid tribute to the 193 UNRWA staff members who had lost their lives since October 2023, while reiterating the paramount importance of the safety of humanitarian personnel and respect for international humanitarian law.

584. The Committee expressed appreciation for the essential work of the Agency, which had assumed a critical, central and indispensable role in the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance, as well as protection services, for the benefit of approximately 6 million registered Palestine refugees in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

585. The Committee recalled that following the onset of the conflict in Gaza, which had had a significant impact on Agency operations, regular UNRWA operations in Gaza had been suspended or adapted to cater for emergency interventions and the provision of basic services to Palestine refugees in Gaza.

586. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNRWA to continue to take a flexible approach to the scale and nature of its operations in Gaza until regular Agency operations could resume, taking into account possible transitional periods.

587. The Committee emphasized the importance for UNRWA of a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system, in accordance with the “three lines of defence” approach. The Committee stressed that it was important for UNRWA to consider its risk assessment, carried out as part of the enterprise risk management and internal control policy, when preparing its programme plans, and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNRWA to incorporate those risks identified into the external factors of its programme plan, when relevant.

588. The Committee commended UNRWA for accepting the 50 recommendations contained in the final report for the Secretary-General on the independent review of mechanisms and procedures to ensure adherence by UNRWA to the humanitarian principle of neutrality.

589. While acknowledging that progress had been made, the Committee noted with appreciation that UNRWA was committed to taking the additional measures required to ensure the full adherence of the Agency to the recommendations contained in the final report.

590. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request UNRWA to continue to strengthen its governance processes and oversight mechanisms to guarantee that the Agency was delivering on its mandate with transparency, accountability and neutrality across all subprogrammes.

591. The Committee noted with appreciation the commitment of UNRWA to reviewing the final draft of its assessment by the Multilateral Organisation

Performance Assessment Network, expected to be issued by July 2024, and to developing a comprehensive management response to the assessment.

592. The Committee took note of the need expressed by UNRWA for consistent resources and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNRWA to ensure a more systematic and sustainable income of resources, in particular with a view to fully implementing the recommendations of the final report for the Secretary-General on the independent review of mechanisms and procedures to ensure adherence by UNRWA to the humanitarian principle of neutrality.

593. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme budget for 2025.

Programme 23

Humanitarian assistance

594. At its 16th meeting, on 24 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 27)).

Discussion

595. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the presentation of a comprehensive programme plan for 2025, with a delegation noting that its comments from the previous year had been taken into account in the current plan. The delegation indicated its intention to submit written amendments to the plan to reflect the final decisions of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the functioning of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

596. A delegation expressed the view that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction were indispensable for the coordination of principled action to ensure coherent, effective and consistent system-wide response strategies to meet the needs of affected people and strengthen resilience and adaptation, while minimizing duplication in addressing gaps in response efforts. Another delegation welcomed the critical leadership role performed by both Offices in response to humanitarian emergencies and expressed the view that cohesive and efficient collaboration was essential to deliver a humanitarian response in complex environments. Delegations emphasized the need to strengthen the interlinkages between humanitarian development, peacebuilding and humanitarian needs.

597. A delegation expressed its broad support for the overall proposed strategy and planned results for 2025 outlined in the report, including the need to utilize a comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of global needs and challenges, and the need for an agile, adaptive humanitarian system. Another delegation expressed the view that ensuring well-coordinated and principled humanitarian assistance by the international community remained as important as ever. The same delegation emphasized the critical role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in coordinating response efforts by the international community to ensure that humanitarian assistance was delivered in a timely, coherent, coordinated and principled manner, as well as to facilitate the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and sustainable development.

598. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the active role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in organizing funding appeals, organizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance, ensuring rapid response to emergency humanitarian crises and providing support for the resolution of protracted crises. The delegation acknowledged the efforts of the United Nations to increase the efficiency of humanitarian assistance and improve the humanitarian funding mechanism. Another delegation acknowledged the performance and accomplishments of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2023. The delegation cited as an example the organization of responses through 27 country-specific and 9 regional plans, which had enabled it to reach 128 million people with some form of assistance, as noted in paragraph 27.31 of the report. The same delegation noted with concern the continued gap between humanitarian needs and resources for the Office, and welcomed efforts to broaden the donor base, including through engagement with the private sector.

599. A delegation underscored the importance of the full and unconditional implementation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols by Member States and emphasized its support for the safe and unimpeded humanitarian access of United Nations agencies to areas affected by conflict and humanitarian crises, in line with the humanitarian principles. The same delegation highlighted the increased pressure on humanitarian actors as a result of deepening global insecurity and the growing number of humanitarian emergencies. In that context, the delegation emphasized the importance of impartiality, neutrality, independence and the non-politicization of United Nations agencies. A delegation said that the United Nations had not been able to reach some affected populations during the previous year due to the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian access and opined that a United Nations agency or individuals acting on its behalf were being instrumentalized in situations of armed conflict. In that regard, the delegation raised serious concerns about the ability of the United Nations to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground objectively and accurately and highlighted the urgent need to enhance accountability and scrutiny across the humanitarian domain. The delegation expressed the view that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should undertake measures to ensure independent and accurate monitoring and proper assessment of the humanitarian situation in conflict areas.

600. A delegation welcomed the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in driving initiatives to strengthen data gathering and distribution with a view to enhancing crisis response. The delegation expressed the view that a methodologically sound evidence base better informed strategic decisions on capacity deployment, response times and resource availability. In that regard, the delegation asked about the benefits accrued from focusing on an evidence-based approach; how the priorities of the Office had evolved in the face of the increased number of humanitarian crises globally and continued resource challenges; and what critical priorities the Office could not address due to those pressures and constraints. The same delegation welcomed the considered approach to anticipatory and early action efforts to prevent humanitarian crises, as well as resilience-building efforts to meaningfully empower and engage local actions and communities in recovery.

601. A delegation sought clarification regarding the coordination efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concerning humanitarian workers and asked whether the Office collaborated with the Department of Safety and Security on safety and security matters.

602. Appreciation was expressed for the references made to the integration of a gender perspective into the operational activities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the importance of women's participation in decision-making processes and the elaboration of public policies.

603. A delegation welcomed the references in the report to collaboration between humanitarian and development efforts (paras. 27.1 and 27.13). The delegation emphasized that economic growth and sustainable development were crucial for prevention and preparedness against natural disasters and other emergencies.

604. With regard to paragraph 27.2 of the report, a delegation noted the reference to the number of people that had experienced food insecurity in 2023 and sought clarification on the source of the data used. The delegation stated that relevant United Nations system organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, had not published such data or made corresponding conclusions recently. The same delegation acknowledged the increase since 2015 in the number of people experiencing food insecurity, but said that the report should cite other key factors that affected global food security, in addition to armed conflicts and climate change.

605. With regard to subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response, a delegation expressed support for the proposal of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to significantly increase cooperation with local communities and organizations. The delegation observed, however, that it was proposed that local actors would lead humanitarian responses (para. 27.38). The delegation sought clarification regarding the formulation of the paragraph and expressed the view that leadership functions belonged to humanitarian organizations, which should coordinate their activities with local authorities and national Governments.

606. A delegation requested information on the coordination between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the European Union, in particular the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. The same delegation referred to figure 27.II of the report, under result 3 (increased participation of local and national actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms), and sought clarification regarding the number of countries listed.

607. With regard to subprogramme 3, Emergency support services, a delegation referred to paragraphs 27.42, 27.43 and 27.52–27.54 of the report and noted that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs planned to enhance cooperation with the private sector. The delegation acknowledged the need for such cooperation but said that it was important to consider the profit-oriented nature of private businesses. The delegation expressed the view that working with the private sector in the humanitarian field should be based primarily on social responsibility and the humanitarian imperative, as well as the humanitarian principles of assistance outlined in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#).

608. With regard to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, a delegation expressed support for the alignment of efforts across the United Nations system, including scaling up disaster risk reduction to help communities to plan and respond to disasters. The delegation recognized and expressed support for the vital role of local humanitarian actors in providing aid and assistance.

609. A delegation expressed appreciation for the important role performed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in building disaster reduction platforms at the global, regional and national levels, as well as in promoting international cooperation in disaster reduction.

610. With regard to paragraphs 27.96 and 27.98 of the report, a delegation observed the absence of agreed language with respect to references to countries in special situations and sought clarification as to why the report did not use language that was in line with the Sendai Framework and other agreed documents.

Conclusions and recommendations

611. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 24 Global communications

612. At its 8th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 (A/79/6 (Sect. 28)).

Discussion

613. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the mandate and work carried out by the Department of Global Communications to raise awareness about the work and the ideals of the United Nations, including the Department’s efforts to raise public awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promote multilingualism and counter hate speech, misinformation and disinformation.

614. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Department’s thematic focus on sustainable development, climate change, peace and security and human rights. Support was also expressed by a delegation for the completion of thematic projects, the provision of news services and the increase in online availability of official resources.

615. Several delegations underscored the importance of promoting multilingualism and the equal treatment and representation of the six official languages of the United Nations and expressed appreciation for the focus placed by the Department on this area. The important role played by the network of United Nations information centres in promoting multilingualism was also highlighted by some delegations.

616. A delegation noted that multilingualism was a founding principle of the United Nations and that all United Nations information services should respect multilingualism as a primary task. The same delegation drew attention to the inconsistent translation and interpretation of online resources into the six official languages of the United Nations and highlighted that those resources available through the United Nations website (www.un.org) and United Nations Web TV were complete only for the English language, which was counter to maintaining the principle of multilingualism and prevented broader access to global audiences. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Department to increase access to United Nations Web TV and United Nations news services.

617. A delegation recalled that the General Assembly resolutions on multilingualism were considered biennially, and that the most recent version had been adopted by the Assembly in June 2022. The same delegation sought information and updates with regard to the draft resolution to be considered by the Assembly in 2024.

618. With regard to information integrity, several delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work undertaken by the Department to build trust among global audiences and to deliver accurate, impartial, balanced and objective news and information in a timely manner. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the

Department's efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation, xenophobia, prejudice and hate speech.

619. A delegation expressed the view that challenges related to hate speech, misinformation and disinformation were rising and that those challenges posed risks to staff and personnel working in United Nations operations and missions around the world. The same delegation expressed its support for the work undertaken by the Department of Global Communications in cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations to address misinformation and disinformation in peacekeeping settings and noted the upcoming Protection of Civilians Week, during which an event would be held on the harmful effect of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech on civilians.

620. Another delegation expressed the view that challenges related to the digital divide and growing inequalities had negatively affected the information landscape and had generated unequal access to timely, trustworthy and multilingual information. The same delegation called upon the Department to enhance its efforts to counter misinformation, disinformation, fake news and hate speech and noted that the development of global principles for information integrity on digital platforms, in consultation with Member States, warranted priority attention.

621. Some delegations welcomed the Department's efforts to develop global principles on information integrity. A delegation expressed its support for translating the principles into tangible results and improvements. Another delegation thanked the Department for holding an inclusive and open consultation process on the global principles with all stakeholders, including Member States, the private sector and civil society. The view was expressed by another delegation that the work undertaken with regard to the development of those principles was not transparent and raised many questions among Member States.

622. Questions were raised by delegations regarding the work undertaken by the Department with regard to information integrity and to countering hate speech, misinformation and disinformation. A delegation requested that the Secretariat elaborate further on how the Department's efforts in that area had been reflected in the proposed programme plan for 2025. The same delegation sought clarification regarding the role played by United Nations information centres and other communication units across the United Nations system in leading and shaping the Organization's efforts to promote information integrity. The delegation encouraged the Department to undertake a holistic assessment of means to strengthen and complement capacities on information integrity across the system.

623. A delegation enquired about the challenges faced by the Department in securing trust in United Nations messaging and in combating misinformation and disinformation. Another delegation sought the views of the Secretariat on how further innovations in technology might aid in the distribution of information by the United Nations global news services and in efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation.

624. Questions were raised by delegations regarding the overall strategy of the Department. A delegation enquired about the impact of the evolving social media landscape on the Department's work and strategy, as well as the potential risks and opportunities emerging from the use of artificial intelligence. The same delegation sought clarification regarding whether the Department measured the overall public profile of the United Nations and requested additional information on how the Department measured such sentiments among target stakeholders and on the current assessment of the United Nations public profile.

625. A delegation recalled paragraph 28.7 on partnerships and noted the references to cooperation between the Department and an array of partners, including from civil society, academia, the media and the private sector. The same delegation requested additional information about the partners with which such cooperation was being carried out.

626. Several delegations expressed support for the efforts made by the Department to promote inclusion and accessibility. A delegation noted the Department's efforts to convert communications into accessible formats, including Braille, audio recordings and sign language videos, as well as over 150 local languages. The same delegation also expressed appreciation for the focus placed by the Department on implementing a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, and expressed the view that the representation of women in communications across media products was essential to empowering women, promoting gender equality and meeting the goals of the Organization. The delegation opined that such a focus on inclusion also played a central role in combating the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

627. A delegation called upon the Department to further increase the representation of women and young people in website content. Another delegation recalled paragraph 28.10, on the balanced presence of women and men, as well as a multidimensional representation and portrayal of women and men, in all of the Department's products, campaigns, events and activities. The same delegation expressed its full support for the equal representation of women and men in the work of the United Nations, while opining that the promotion of a gender perspective should not become a defining element in the work of the Organization and programmes as a whole.

628. Delegations noted the importance of multilingual and geographic diversity in the work of the Department. Clarification was sought by a delegation on the efforts currently undertaken by the Department in that regard, while expressing the view that there was a need for a review of policies and practices across the United Nations to determine whether existing policies had an impact on staff members of a particular race or ethnic or national origin.

629. With regard to subprogramme 1, Campaigns and country operations services, delegations welcomed the work of the Department in providing reliable crisis communications, activating crisis communication cells and ensuring coordination on communications across the United Nations system. A delegation also thanked the Department for its work on crisis communications undertaken in Gaza, the Sudan and Ukraine. Delegations also expressed support for the communications campaigns undertaken by the Department on the 2030 Agenda, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held in 2023, and in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024.

630. Clarification was sought by a delegation regarding paragraph 28.22, under subprogramme 1, which contained a reference to the establishment of a new website in the area of peace and security in 2024. The same delegation requested information on the mandates under which the work in that area had been authorized.

631. With regard to subprogramme 2, News services, delegations expressed appreciation for the Department's efforts to utilize multimedia digital communication to reach global audiences across platforms. A delegation thanked the Department for its work on the United Nations websites, its coverage of General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council plenary meetings in all six official languages of the United Nations and its photo and audiovisual archives.

632. Another delegation sought clarification regarding figure 28.VI, under subprogramme 2, on why the planned target for 2025 was lower than the target for 2024. The same delegation recalled table 28.3, under the same subprogramme, and requested information on progress made in ensuring coverage for United Nations meetings and press releases in the six official languages of the United Nations.

633. With regard to subprogramme 3, Outreach and knowledge services, a delegation welcomed the Department's strategic and streamlined approach to partnerships, while opining that such an approach enhanced the Department's ability to target and deliver its message to a wider community. Another delegation noted that, according to paragraph 28.43 (a), under the same subprogramme, the Department planned to engage in advocacy with a broad range of academic institutions, students and educators, and sought clarification regarding which educational institutions the Department planned to work with.

634. Another delegation noted the work of subprogramme 3 in organizing outreach programmes on the Holocaust, with a special focus on young people, and emphasized the educational role played by the United Nations in promoting awareness of the Holocaust among future generations. The same delegation noted that General Assembly resolution [76/250](#) on Holocaust denial was not reflected in the proposed programme plan for 2025 and sought additional information on the activities of the United Nations outreach programme on the Holocaust, in the context of Holocaust denial and distortion.

635. The importance of sport in promoting the values of the United Nations was emphasized by a delegation. Recalling result 1 under subprogramme 3, on the "Football for the Goals" initiative, the same delegation enquired as to whether other sports, beyond football, had been used in the past, or were planned to be used, for such outreach initiatives.

Conclusions and recommendations

636. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [78/244](#), consider the programme plan for programme 24, Global communications, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 25 Management and support services

637. At its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 14 and 20 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 29\)](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 29A\)](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 29B\)](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 29D\)](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#) and [A/79/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#)).

Discussion

638. Delegations welcomed the important role of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance in the administration and management of the United Nations. Referring to paragraph 29A.2, delegations noted that the Department had effectively implemented the four pillars of enterprise resource planning; programme planning, finance and budget; human resources; and business transformation and accountability. In addition, the Department had taken on the important task of

eliminating racism and racial discrimination in the Secretariat by establishing strong monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms. A delegation said that the Department had strengthened internal controls, managed resources in a high quality and efficient manner, and promoted the implementation of human resources policies such as equitable geographical representation in all departments and offices. The delegation expressed the hope that the Department would continue to strengthen performance management, improve quality and efficiency, maintain close communication with Member States, and further promote equitable geographical representation.

639. Noting how hard the Department was working to support the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, and thus the whole Organization, a delegation cited a former President of the General Assembly, who had stated that the Fifth Committee was the backbone of the General Assembly (and, the delegate added, the Committee for Programme and Coordination was part of the overall budgetary process), and concluded that, by the same logic, it could be said that the Department was the backbone of the United Nations Secretariat, noting that the two committees would not function without the Department's support and the Organization could not deliver on its mandates without adequate finance and liquidity, comprehensive accountability, capable management and diverse and competent human resources.

640. The Department's integral role in ensuring efficient budgeting practices, strengthened accountability frameworks and effective human resources policies was welcomed. A delegation welcomed the Department's commitment to continuous improvement and incorporation of results-based management practices within the daily functioning of the Organization.

641. Appreciation was expressed for the vital role the Department continued to play in implementing the Secretary-General's reform agenda throughout the Organization and making the United Nations operational, efficient and productive throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. A delegation indicated its support for the Department's efforts to strengthen the Organization's resilience, including its preparedness to maintain business continuity in emergencies, by guiding, monitoring and adjusting the post-pandemic ways of working at United Nations Headquarters to continually adapt to changing environments, risks and opportunities.

642. A delegation thanked the Department for assisting Member States in finding agreement on important General Assembly resolutions in recent years, including on human resources management (resolution [77/278](#)), changes to the budgetary cycle (resolution [77/267](#)), and addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat (resolution [78/253](#), section XII). The delegation said that it was a very important decision of the Member States to make clear that racism and racial discrimination had no place in the United Nations and to turn the Anti-Racism Team into the Anti-Racism Office for the implementation of the United Nations zero-tolerance approach to racism. Support was expressed for the Department's efforts to constantly readapt and fulfil the mandates created by the Member States.

643. A delegation said that it valued inclusivity and welcomed the Department's efforts to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment through integrated solutions and strategic partnerships throughout the United Nations system. The delegation highlighted the importance of paid internships and its view that interns were a valued resource of the Organization.

644. On subprogramme 1, component 1, Enterprise resource planning solution, a delegation welcomed the commitment to invest in technology and innovation to support resource management and expressed its appreciation for the efforts to improve and expand the Umoja programme.

645. On subprogramme 1, component 2, Services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its support in organizing the meetings of the committees. The timeliness of delivery of documentation for the current session was also greatly appreciated.

646. On subprogramme 2, Programme planning, finance and budget, the Department's commitment to results-based management policies and practices and its efforts to disseminate such values across the Organization were welcomed. A delegation noted the importance of United Nations programmatic activity being driven by results-based budgeting that evaluated tangible impact against agreed mandates. Delegations recognized the challenges involved in managing the liquidity crisis and commended the Department's efforts to limit the negative impact. A delegation asked the Department for its views on the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in providing guidance to help with liquidity management.

647. On subprogramme 2, component 2, Field operations finance, and in reference to figure 29A.V, a delegation commended the construction project team at the United Nations Office at Nairobi for attaining a budget confidence level of 97 per cent for the ongoing office project. Another delegation asked why the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva had not been included in figure 29A.V.

648. On subprogramme 2, component 3, Programme planning and budgeting, appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Programme Planning and Budget Division to continuously improve the quality of budgetary reports. In reference to table 29A.25, on early briefings for the Main Committees on the programme budget implications process, a delegation stated that it looked forward to the establishment of a portal in 2025.

649. On subprogramme 3, component 1, Global strategy and policy, a delegation welcomed the focus on a human resources strategy that promoted greater workforce diversity, and the efforts to ensure gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Office of Human Resources was commended for its efforts to improve the representation of underrepresented and unrepresented countries. The Department was asked what measures had been taken to improve equitable geographical representation. Updates were requested on the system of desirable ranges and other measures to reduce the number of countries that were underrepresented or unrepresented. Delegations also asked whether there were any targeted measures that were tailored to countries at different levels of underrepresentation. On paragraph 29A.94 (a), which contained a reference to the system of desirable ranges, a delegation asked whether the strategy could have been articulated to include other mandates under General Assembly resolution [77/278](#), such as with regard to the senior leadership of the Organization. On paragraph 29A.2 (g), the Department was asked to elaborate on what the dynamic human resources strategy entailed specifically. On human resources issues that the Department planned to address in 2025, a delegation noted references to concepts that had not been approved by Member States, such as "adopting approaches that incorporate new values and behaviours into talent management" (para. 29A.94 (f)). In that regard, the Department was urged to adhere strictly to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on human resources management on all staffing issues.

650. On subprogramme 3, component 2, Administrative law, specifically table 29A.33, a delegation asked about the rationale for the 2024 planned target of increased reporting of behaviour constituting sexual harassment. Another delegation wondered why the number of ClearCheck screening requests received in 2023 had not

been provided, when figures had been provided for 2021 (81,071 requests) and 2022 (120,068 requests).

651. On subprogramme 4, Business transformation and accountability, a delegation expressed its support for the United Nations accountability mechanisms and processes, including delegation of authority, senior managers' compacts and coordination with oversight bodies. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the efforts made to foster greater transparency and accountability to engender greater credibility and trust in the capabilities of the United Nations, as well as for the efforts made to accelerate the culture shift required to implement in full the new management paradigm of increased delegation of authority, transparency and accountability. On paragraph 29A.120 (b), which indicated that the subprogramme would carry out capacity-building activities to support all United Nations entities in identifying, assessing, evaluating and controlling risk, a delegation asked how that differed from the current approach to enterprise risk management.

652. On subprogramme 5, Addressing racism in the workplace, delegations expressed their support for the implementation of the strategic action plan, the establishment of the Anti-Racism Office, and the Department's work to strengthen accountability systems to address allegations of racism in the workplace and to combat racism and racial discrimination in the Secretariat. On table 29A.32, with regard to the tools used by the Organization, including ClearCheck, a delegation asked whether the Department had considered including misconduct related to racism and racial discrimination into the ClearCheck system, as facilitated by resolution [78/253](#). On table 29A.39, additional information was requested regarding the 180 anti-racism advocates appointed across 103 entities to champion and drive the implementation of the strategic action plan at the entity level. In the context of addressing issues of discrimination more directly and effectively in the Secretariat by encouraging reporting, enhancing accountability and transparency, and periodically reporting on progress made in addressing diversity, equity and inclusion, a delegation asked whether those efforts to address discrimination and promote inclusivity and diversity applied to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and how that might be implemented.

653. Delegations thanked the Department of Operational Support for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and expressed their appreciation for the work of the Department in providing support to the United Nations Secretariat, including advisory, operational and transactional support services, focusing on five main areas, namely, human resources support, health-care management, capacity building, supply chain management and communications technology. The Department was commended for its efforts to innovate and to put clients at the heart of process design, to enable Secretariat entities to deliver on their mandates and achieve results.

654. Appreciation was expressed for the Department's vital role in business process improvement and business continuity, and in making the United Nations operational, efficient and productive.

655. The Department was commended for its efforts to improve the accessibility of the United Nations premises for persons with disabilities, including the planned renovation of the DC-2 building, and for its continued efforts to strengthen outreach and training for vendors, including for women-owned businesses.

656. Support was expressed for efforts to enhance collaboration in operational support between the African Union and the United Nations, pursuant to Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#).

657. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the Department's focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and acknowledged the contribution made by the

Department in guiding the procedural changes needed across the United Nations to accelerate the achievement of the Goals.

658. The Department was applauded for its efforts to improve service delivery, including by embedding client-centric culture in its work. The Department's role in reducing the environmental footprint of the Organization through effective supply chain management was also commended.

659. A delegation praised the work of the Department and expressed the hope that the Department would continue to perform its functions and responsibilities strictly in accordance with the mandates given to it by Member States and that the Department would increase procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

660. Support was expressed for the Department's plans to simplify processes and provide tailored advice to enable clients to use their delegated authority, leveraging improved guidance documents, multimedia platforms and knowledge hubs, such as the Knowledge Gateway.

661. With regard to paragraph 29B.19, on the programme performance in 2023 related to the restructuring and downsizing of field missions under subprogramme 1, component 1, Human resources support, a delegation asked what challenges the Department was facing as a result of the increase in the number of closed field missions. Information was also requested on the details of the work done by the Department with entities affected by restructuring, downsizing and drawdown in 2024.

662. On paragraph 29B.21, under result 1, a delegation noted the reference to the creation of various infographics and the addition of success stories on the young professionals programme to the United Nations Careers portal to promote the programme. The delegation underlined the importance of the programme in rejuvenating the Secretariat and expressed the hope that the Department would consider allowing candidates already on the young professionals programme roster to undertake paid internships once the payment schemes for interns were approved.

663. On subprogramme 1, component 3, Health-care management and occupational safety and health, a delegation expressed support for the improvement of military medicine in peacekeeping missions and in key areas, such as emergency treatment, care and casualty evacuation in the field. The delegation also expressed support for the development of new mental health strategy for uniformed personnel.

664. On paragraph 29B.45, concerning the programme performance in 2023, a delegation welcomed the launch of a pilot programme on suicide prevention in May 2023, aimed at raising awareness about suicide risk and mental health, establishing "gatekeepers", changing the service culture and reducing stigma, so that personnel felt safe to seek support. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue to explore advanced technologies to enhance the level of medical care in the field, chief among them the telemedicine project, which would give peacekeepers better access to professional consultations and online assistance. It was highlighted that the telemedicine project had won the United Nations Secretary-General Award in 2023.

665. Also on paragraph 29B.45, reference was made to the second sentence, which highlighted concerns about the resilience and psychosocial well-being of United Nations security professionals. In that regard, clarification was sought as to the source of those concerns, including data on mental health impacts and suicides, and any additional measures planned or needed to address mental health needs, in addition to the pilot programme on suicide prevention and the training of gatekeepers.

666. With regard to result 2 of subprogramme 1, component 3, clarification was sought as to the source of concerns relating to a safe and healthy environment for female civilian and uniformed personnel in peace operations. Additional information was requested on reports of damage to the health or well-being of female personnel, and whether the situation had improved.

667. Regarding paragraph 29B.56 (a), information was sought regarding how the Department would improve the alignment of the Secretariat's end-to-end supply chain with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

668. Referencing the enabling deliverables in table 29B.14 for subprogramme 2, component 1, Integrated supply chain management, a delegation recalled the in-depth discussion by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in 2023 on the deliverable of "implementation and review of new sustainable supply chain technologies". Clarification was sought as to whether the same deliverable included in table 29B.14 was linked to the controversial and yet to be developed concept of sustainable procurement.

669. With regard to table 29B.19, a delegation referred to the performance measure for 2024, which indicated that the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) would provide operational support to non-United Nations security forces. The delegation sought clarification as to whether the work to be performed by UNSOS had been authorized by Member States.

670. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the important work of the Office of Information and Communications Technology in ensuring that personnel had a single place to meet, communicate, share files and collaborate, enabling a mobile and digital workforce. Efforts to strengthen system-wide interoperability and synergies were encouraged, and the contribution that data made towards effective mandate implementation was recognized. In that context, support was expressed for the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere and the quintet of change.

671. The Office was commended for initiating the deployment of proactive threat-hunting capabilities to replace the reactive intrusion detection systems used previously (para. 29C.5), and was encouraged to continue to ensure the sustainable and secure functioning of the global network and the ICT systems, platforms and applications that enabled interaction within the Secretariat, ensuring a balanced approach to the introduction of new technologies so as not to expose the United Nations to risks and threats in the area of ICT security.

672. Support was expressed for the Office of Information and Communications Technology as it navigated digital transformation in a rapidly changing digital landscape, while supporting the General Assembly with meeting formats that were inclusive for everybody.

673. A delegation expressed support for the Office's efforts to build awareness and ensure the responsible use of artificial intelligence, through the delivery of a new course on generative artificial intelligence and the issuance of initial guidance on its use and risks. The Office was requested to share that guidance with the members of the Committee and to elaborate on how conversational artificial intelligence had already been applied to ensure more intuitive and efficient access to information, as noted in paragraph 29C.7.

674. Information was sought on the impact to date of the use of artificial intelligence on the work of the Office, the opportunities artificial intelligence offered for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, how the Office planned to engage with those opportunities, and the recommendations of the Office for the regulation of artificial intelligence. Another delegation asked about the work done with the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the ethics of artificial intelligence.

675. Regarding subprogramme 1, Strategy and technology innovation, a delegation welcomed the Office's efforts to better articulate how technology could enable and aid the implementation of United Nations mandates and said that such efforts should promote cohesion, allowing for greater efficiency. In relation to result 2, advance mandate implementation through partnerships on innovative technology, the Office was commended for the use of new technology solutions to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. The Office was asked whether the impact on awareness had been measured and whether there were plans to apply those solutions to other issues.

676. Regarding subprogramme 2, Operations support, a delegation expressed concern at the fact that efforts to modernize voice communications, as reflected in result 1, had not met the target, with just 50 additional users relative to the planned target of 6,500, and requested clarification as to the specific obstacles and potential lessons learned for meeting targets in 2025.

677. With regard to the United Nations Offices at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna, a delegation thanked the Offices for the programme documentation, noting the committed work that all three Offices had put into preparing the documents. Another delegation said that the work of the Offices was paramount to supporting the multilateral order and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Offices to adapt to the difficulties presented by the liquidity situation while still delivering their best work and taking care of staff. Another delegation noted the intensification of the liquidity crisis and said that the resulting mitigation measures, including reduced allocations and hiring restrictions, had had a profound effect on many United Nations agencies delivering core mandated activities. The delegation welcomed the opportunity for regular and coordinated status updates to Member States.

678. With regard to human resources management, a delegation noted the absence of a cross-cutting policy and inconsistency in the programme plans of the United Nations Offices at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna on improving geographical representation. Another delegation said that fostering greater interest from female applicants from underrepresented countries was a welcome strategy, but added that the proposed increase in the numbers of female applicants should be qualitative, rather than quantitative. The delegation noted the strategy would provide more value if it resulted in an increased number of women appointed to senior positions, and underscored the need for equitable geographical representation at the senior leadership level.

679. A delegation expressed gratitude for the hard work done at the three duty stations, noting that one of the key responsibilities of duty stations was to provide support services to the intergovernmental process of the Organization in line with their role as major conference centres for international diplomacy, including providing technical conference support services as part of the conferencing ecosystem. The delegation noted that such services included the use of modern and flexible conferencing modalities, including remote and hybrid conferencing, that enabled the participation of missions with more limited capacity and presence at the duty stations. Another delegation expressed support for the use of technology as an innovative tool to empower all United Nations personnel, including hybrid conferencing services that enabled the inclusion of small delegations and civil society. The delegation noted that hybrid conferencing modalities were intended to complement in-person participation and help to reduce the environmental footprint and provide cost savings with respect to travel. However, another delegation questioned whether the inclusive nature of virtual participation was useful, given that WHO had declared that the COVID-19 pandemic was no longer a public health emergency. The delegation suggested that the offices away from Headquarters return

to face-to-face meetings unless the virtual forum was intergovernmentally agreed and mandated.

680. A delegation welcomed efforts to improve the environmental sustainability of the operations of offices away from Headquarters. Another delegation encouraged the Offices at Geneva and Nairobi to complete construction projects in a timely manner and within budget. Another delegation made an appeal for the interests of Member States to be the primary consideration in all construction projects. A delegation expressed support for diversifying procurement, including by conducting outreach to vendors in developing countries.

681. A delegation requested an update from the Offices at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna on how they were responding to General Assembly resolution [77/278](#) on human resources management.

682. A delegation commended the United Nations Office at Nairobi for its successful transition to in-person meetings following the end of the pandemic, citing the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, as well as the award of the ISO 14001:2015 certification on environmental management to the Office as part of the Greening the Blue strategy. The delegation also commended the progress achieved in the construction of office blocks A–J, which would be completed on time and within budget. Lastly, the delegation commended the Office's progress in establishing the Common Back Office and noted that the services and support offered demonstrated the benefits of the Secretary-General's common back office initiative.

683. Another delegation applauded the initiatives implemented by the United Nations Office at Nairobi to promote the health and well-being of staff through the expansion of health programmes and counselling. The delegation expressed appreciation for ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and supportive work environment through the implementation of webinars on burnout prevention.

684. Recalling General Assembly resolution [53/242](#), a delegation welcomed the initiatives being put in place to increase the utilization and efficacy of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, including the initial phase of the roll-out of the common back office approach. The delegation enquired about the progress of the roll-out and requested an update on any challenges faced and the solutions applied. The same delegation noted that a number of United Nations organizations were moving their services to Nairobi with the aim of bringing them closer to their target clients. Given the growing interest in climate change and environment matters globally, the delegation noted that it expected an increase in the numbers of participants attending conferences and meetings of UNEP and UN-Habitat, which would require efficient and modern facilities and conference services. The delegation noted the importance of ensuring prudent asset accounting in capital construction projects and said that the proposed master plan remained on track. Given the diverse range of clients, the delegation enquired about the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations Office at Nairobi to promote multilingualism and strengthen the language skills of United Nations staff and others at the Office. The delegation also enquired about the provision for strengthening information technology architecture and systems. Lastly, it noted the commitment of the Government of Kenya to ongoing collaboration with the United Nations Office at Nairobi, including the incorporation of lessons learned into future plans.

685. A delegation expressed its support for the strategy of the United Nations Office at Geneva to equip rooms with hybrid conference equipment, noting that the extension of business continuity arrangements, to allow for the continued provision of hybrid conferencing, would ensure effective use of those facilities. The delegation said that the Human Rights Council had obtained an extension to the practice of using remote

participation modalities until the end of the calendar year, but suggested that a broader, medium-term solution could be necessary for all the entities for which the Office provided hybrid conferences services.

686. In the context of supporting intergovernmental bodies, a delegation noted that the United Nations Office at Geneva had seen a new wave of discussions aimed at strengthening its virtual format of work, such as Human Rights Council decision 55/116. The delegation noted, however, that the Secretariat, including the United Nations Office at Geneva, did not have a mandate from the General Assembly to hold intergovernmental meetings in a virtual or hybrid format. The delegation indicated that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the key department of the Secretariat responsible for the provision of conference services, operated within that paradigm, and expressed the view that was how the United Nations Office at Geneva should act. Referencing paragraph 29E.3, the delegation requested clarification regarding which 18 resident coordinator offices in Europe the United Nations Office at Geneva had provided travel and procurement support to, and what support the Office provided to the United Nations office in Kosovo.

687. Regarding the facilities at the United Nations Office at Geneva, a delegation expressed the hope that the facilities were not used to display any controversial symbols or emblems that undermined international cooperation. The delegation emphasized that the Office's facilities were provided to civil society organizations for the holding of various events in a manner that was strictly in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

688. A delegation enquired about the incentives in place for staff at the United Nations Office at Geneva to participate in the official language proficiency courses described in paragraph 29E.33. The delegation also commended the commitment of the Office to the preservation of the original historical design and historical features of its buildings.

689. A delegation commended the United Nations Office at Vienna for its continued focus on issues relating to human resources, in particular its efforts to create a more inclusive, respectful and supportive work environment. The same delegation recognized the central role of staff training but pointed out that it would be useful to see further metrics to assess the impact of the subprogramme, in order to understand the extent to which its objectives were being met. Another delegation noted the support of the Office for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce and the use of lessons learned to increase awareness and expand its training on disability inclusion.

690. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of the United Nations Office at Vienna in ensuring budgetary discipline and adhering to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, noting the progress made towards improving staff awareness of budgetary and accounting matters and the financial provisions and rules of the United Nations. The same delegation sought clarification on the provision of administrative services by multilingual teams at the Office, as referenced in paragraph 29F.2. The delegation also asked if the list in paragraph 29F.7 fully captured all legislative mandates.

Conclusions and recommendations

691. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 25, Management and support services, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

Programme 26

Internal oversight

692. At its 6th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 30\)](#)).

Discussion

693. Delegations expressed strong support for OIOS, including the three pillars of its work, namely, internal audit, inspection and evaluation, and investigation, and its proposed programme plan for 2025. In addition, support was expressed for the Office's oversight mandate and responsibility, its operational independence, and its contribution to the effective and efficient management of the resources of the Organization, while ensuring increased accountability and overall performance across the United Nations system. A delegation recalled that independence, impartiality and professionalism must be at the heart of the work of the Office.

694. Appreciation was expressed for the work being done to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct, harassment, racial discrimination, fraud and corruption, and for the Office's important function of keeping track of the fulfilment of mandates for the reliability and credibility of the Organization. The collaboration of the Office with other United Nations entities, primarily the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit, was commended and supported. A delegate asked whether the Office was in a position to conduct surprise audits, inspections and investigations at short notice, and how the allocation of work was determined between the Office and the Board of Auditors.

695. A delegation expressed support for the priorities of the strategy for 2025, as set out in paragraph 30.2 of the report ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 30\)](#)). Another delegation noted that although paragraph 30.2 listed several cross-cutting strategies of the Secretary-General, geographical representation was not included.

696. A delegation made reference to the oversight role of the Office in mission drawdown or transition, as reflected in paragraph 30.2, and wondered why Security Council resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#) had not been included in the list of mandates of the Office. A delegation welcomed the fact that the activities of the Office were generally based on mandates issued by intergovernmental bodies and drew attention to paragraph 30.10 and the list of mandates entrusted to the programme. The delegation noted that the list did not contain General Assembly resolutions adopted in recent years and emphasized the need to update it, in order to guide the work of the Office.

697. Regarding subprogramme 1, Internal audit, the implementation of 48 audit recommendations on strengthening ICT security in 2023 was welcomed. That represented an increase from just one recommendation implemented in 2022. While the progress made was appreciated, clarifications were sought regarding the efforts being undertaken to ensure the implementation of all 217 recommendations on the management of ICT risks and preparedness. In relation to result 1, strengthened accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, a delegation enquired about the reasons for the low performance target. On result 2, increased accountability through transparent exercise of the delegation of authority, a delegation asked why only 29 audit recommendations had been accepted, equivalent to 4 per cent of the total recommendations accepted in 2023, which did not meet the target of 12 per cent.

698. In relation to subprogramme 2, Inspection and evaluation, the reference to strengthening the resident coordinator system was welcomed. Emphasis was given to the importance of implementing the recommendations in a timely fashion given the

essential role of the resident coordinator system in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

699. Regarding subprogramme 3, Investigations, support was expressed for the efforts of the Office to bolster a culture of accountability and to ensure a timely response to complaints concerning sexual exploitation and abuse and misconduct. Delegations emphasized that a culture of accountability started from the leadership and was central to the successful management of the Organization. Furthermore, delegations encouraged the Organization to continue demonstrating its commitment to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to provide justice for victims of such abuse. In that regard, additional information was sought on the measures to be taken by the Office to ensure the availability of qualified experts to strengthen its response and on the steps necessary to reduce the timeline of the investigation process and the issuance of reports by the Office, particularly when victims were involved. Support was expressed for the target of 80 per cent of all investigations completed within six months, although there was concern that just 37 per cent and 46 per cent of investigations had been completed within that time frame in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

700. A delegation wondered whether the zero-tolerance approach should be enhanced, with the focus not on what should not happen, but on the consequences of what would happen if sexual exploitation and abuse occurred. In addition, a delegation enquired whether the zero-tolerance policy had resulted in personnel in peacekeeping operations being disciplined, and emphasized that the policy should be implemented, and oversight exercised so that personnel were deterred from committing misconduct.

Conclusions and recommendations

701. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 26, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.

Programme 27

Jointly financed activities

702. At its 13th meeting, on 21 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 27, Jointly financed administrative activities, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 31\)](#)).

Discussion

703. Recognizing the leadership and committed work of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), the Joint Inspection Unit and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), several delegations thanked the representatives of the three entities in preparing the proposed programme plans for 2025 and reiterated the continued support to the goals of the jointly financed administrative activities. It was emphasized that the three entities had greatly contributed to better coordination and effectiveness of the United Nations system.

704. In a world of volatility and uncertainty, a delegation noted that it was urgent for the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen collaboration, harmonize goals and policies, enhance work efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts and the waste of resources. In this context, the importance of multilingualism in the work of the organizations of the United Nations system was stressed. A delegation pointed out

that organizations should use all six official United Nations languages equally and fully in all their activities in efforts to reduce the gap between the use of English and the other five languages. At the same time, the delegation expressed serious concern about the imbalance in the composition of the staff members of the United Nations agencies and repeatedly called for improvements in the future, noting that United Nations agencies should have a more inclusive and diverse composition of staff members. To ensure higher percentage of staff members from developing countries, ICSC, the Joint Inspection Unit and CEB were requested to take practical measures to coordinate and strengthen supervision over the United Nations agencies.

705. With regard to ICSC, several delegations expressed support for its important work to regulate and coordinate the conditions of service for staff of the United Nations common system while making the improvements necessary to ensure that staff kept pace with the changing world. The proactive efforts by the Commission in safeguarding and improving the compensation system and living conditions of the United Nations staff members were appreciated. It was emphasized that efforts made to strengthen the coherence and efficacy of human resource management systems were essential for ensuring that the ambitious objectives of the United Nations system were delivered. A delegation expressed support and welcomed the recommendation of the Commission to regularize the payment of an allowance at duty stations with extreme hardship conditions.

706. In respect of the ICSC strategy for 2025, several delegations expressed interest in paragraph 31.4 of the proposed programme budget for 2025 regarding the intention of the Commission to conduct a review and propose relevant updates to the General Assembly on any new developments and improvements as they related to geographical diversity and the rejuvenation of the workforce. Noting that the proposed outcome was the promotion of geographical diversity and rejuvenation of the workforce, a delegation urged that those goals be given priority, resulting in a robust action plan. It was recalled that the matter of equitable geographical representation had been raised in every interaction the Committee had had since the start of the sixty-fourth session and that the rejuvenation of the Organization was a growing concern as it had not been highlighted to the same extent. In this context, a delegation reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to continue his ongoing efforts to ensure the attainment of equitable geographical representation in the Secretariat and as wide a geographical distribution of staff as possible in all departments and offices and at all levels. While the work of the Commission in this aspect was highlighted, as efforts were being made to address the problem, the delegation enquired about the timelines and details that could be shared to the Committee regarding the initiative and any expected outcomes. Furthermore, questions were raised on the availability of information regarding the age range of the workforce at that stage and whether the rejuvenation of the workforce had been affected by the liquidity crisis. Clarification was also sought related to the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General in the retention of deserving young professionals and the reasons for their resignations, as well as the measures proposed for tracking and monitoring the movements of serving young Professional staff members.

707. In reference to the planned result 2 for 2025, “a common system compensation package that is fit for purpose, competitive and cost efficient”, a delegation expressed concern that the detailed outline of review to be developed in 2024 and a progress report that would be submitted to the General Assembly in 2025 would be a very challenging task. The delegation expected the Commission after the global surveys, to solicit information from the staff at large and to put forward a more reasonable mechanism of positive incentives on the basis of the principles of being fair and truthful to facts in order to attract and retain more talents in the United Nations system. In respect of the performance measure in table 31.3 under result 2,

information was sought as to when the pulse of staff would be taken regarding their satisfaction with the common system compensation package and if there were early indications of staff satisfaction.

708. Regarding the Joint Inspection Unit, several delegations expressed appreciation for the diligent work of the Unit to ensure an independent perspective regarding improvements to the United Nations management and internal procedures. Its recent report on the review of mental health and well-being policies and practices in United Nations system organizations was commended. In the context of a complex operating environment and increased risk at many duty stations, it was emphasized that the report was an important step to ensuring a more fully aware and equipped United Nations system.

709. In addition, support for a strong Joint Inspection Unit with sufficient resources was emphasized by a delegation for the active role it played in reviewing matters bearing on the efficiency of services and the proper use of funds to ensure efficiency in management and administration across the United Nations system organizations. Another delegation recognized Result 1, in which the work of the Unit contributed to 77 per cent of recommendations being accepted by participating organizations, exceeding the planned target of 76 per cent, and noted that it was the shared responsibility of Member States through governing bodies and organizations secretariats to ensure the swift implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations.

710. In reference to the Joint Inspection Unit's strategy for 2025, particularly in paragraph 31.27, another delegation expected the Unit to focus on its accountability and oversight functions and to further improve the coordination and collaboration of the United Nations system for synergy. With regard to the Unit's engagement with the Board of Auditors and OIOS, information was requested to further elaborate on the specific areas of cooperation with the oversight bodies.

711. With regard to CEB, appreciation was expressed by several delegations for the great amount of work carried out by CEB to promote coherence, cooperation and coordination in the policies, programmes and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. Emphasis was placed on the unique role of the Board in shaping synergy within the United Nations system and in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals to jointly address the global challenges. In that regard, a delegation reiterated its appreciation for the Board's important work to strengthen and amplify the capacity of the multilateral system to deliver on all aspects of sustainable development, human rights and peace.

712. Support was expressed by another delegation for the work of CEB on the continued modernization of the United Nations data portal and its interoperability. Efforts to disseminate data through functions, such as the CEB data portal, an important provision in allowing for more innovative analysis, communications and digital outreach, were appreciated. Noting the reference to paragraph 31.54 under result 3, clarification was sought if there was any resistance among staff or organizations to the implementation of the Digital ID initiative.

713. Another delegation stressed the importance of constant adherence by the entities to the intergovernmental mandates listed in the document. While the need to promote equal geographic representation among Member States in the United Nations Secretariat was noted, a question was raised on what measures were being taken by CEB in that area. Although references to gender perspective and disability inclusion were mentioned in the strategy and external factors for 2025, as reflected in paragraphs 31.46 and 31.47, the same delegation questioned why a reference to ensuring equitable geographical representation was missing. Moreover, clarification was sought on why, among similar mandates on inclusivity and representation,

information related to that basic principle, and part of the Charter of the United Nations under Article 101, as enshrined in countless General Assembly resolutions, was not included. In respect of paragraph 31.40 under the deliverables, clarification was further sought regarding the decrease in the number of Fifth Committee meetings for 2025, in which the Joint Inspection Unit participated, from 10 in 2024 to 8 in 2025.

Conclusions and recommendations

714. The Committee commended the work carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system, and underlined the importance of its long-standing commitment to strengthening transparency and accountability across the United Nations system.

715. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage CEB to continue its efforts to promote the system-wide delivery of mandates aimed at ensuring efficiency, in particular in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

716. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to ensure transparency and accountability of the established budgetary procedures of the cost-sharing arrangement between the entities represented in the Finance and Budget Network.

717. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

II. Joint Inspection Unit

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

Add “[77/279](#) Joint Inspection Unit”.

Add “[78/276](#) Joint Inspection Unit”.

Programme 28 Safety and security

718. At its 10th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)).

Discussion

719. Delegations thanked the Department of Safety and Security for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and expressed appreciation and support for the Department’s commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all staff and personnel, delegates, dignitaries and other visitors at United Nations Headquarters and other locations away from Headquarters. Appreciation was also expressed for the Department’s continued focus on resilience, efficiency and results.

720. A delegation highlighted the recent reappointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and looked forward to his continued support for the completion of the ongoing reforms.

721. A delegation noted the Department's fundamental role in enabling the delivery of United Nations programmes and recognized it as a critical partner in executing humanitarian assistance, especially in insecure environments. It was noted that the United Nations operated all over the globe and faced numerous challenges and increasing risks in various locations, most frequently in highly dangerous conflict zones. Growing conflict and insecurity around the world continued to increase humanitarian needs, and many of the world's most vulnerable faced multiple converging destabilizing factors, including unprecedented levels of climate change-induced migration and indifference to international humanitarian law by some actors. Accordingly, it was more critical than ever that humanitarian workers were present to assist those in the greatest need.

722. The Department was commended for its efforts to modernize towards a security risk management-based approach, given how inextricably linked access, programming, and safety and security were in humanitarian operations. The Department was also commended for its efforts to improve its information and knowledge management systems and was encouraged to use public and transparent risk incident systems in cooperation with regional and NGO partners.

723. It was emphasized that the safety of United Nations personnel, including humanitarian personnel, unhindered humanitarian access to people in need, and the safeguarding of United Nations premises and property were of critical importance. In that regard, delegations applauded the brave work of the Department's personnel and their vital role in enabling United Nations system entities to deliver their programmes and activities both at Headquarters and in the field, including the provision of security for some 180,000 personnel and their 400,000 dependents in over 125 countries, amid challenging security contexts.

724. Support was expressed for the use of all available tools to promote accountability, consistent with international law, for those responsible for unlawful attacks on medical and humanitarian personnel, and the need to continue the long-standing work to keep the humanitarian consequences of crises on the agenda of the Security Council. A delegation expressed condolences in relation to the recent killing of a Security Coordination Officer in the field, while he was performing security functions on the ground, and highlighted the demanding context and difficult circumstances under which the Department operated. The delegation reiterated the importance of the work of the Department, including as reflected in the proposed programme plan for 2025, and called for the Department's continued support to enable programme delivery.

725. A delegation welcomed the Department's championing of adaptation and continuous improvement and commended its innovative approach and consistent efforts to assess and enhance service delivery, record lessons learned and ensure cohesion and consistency across the United Nations system. Clarification was sought regarding how the Department was responding to increased demands as a result of multiple crises and any adaptation measures taken in response to the prevailing security context.

726. Delegations also welcomed the Department's integration of gender perspectives into a gender-sensitive security management system, as well as the implementation of a disability strategy to help foster and improve diversity, equity and inclusion, which were key to the effective fulfilment of the Department's mandate. The Department was encouraged to continue to strengthen those efforts.

727. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation recalled the recent approval by the General Assembly, in its resolution [78/253](#), of 19 posts to strengthen the Department's operational resilience and

emergency response to crises, and expressed the view that those enhanced capabilities would enable the Department to respond with agility to challenges to safety and security that could affect the implementation of mandates, and looked forward to seeing positive results. Another delegation strongly encouraged other delegations to join it in addressing the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, in order to reinforce the efforts of the Department to fulfil its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes.

728. A delegation pointed out the difficulties and constraints encountered owing to limited access to the United Nations Headquarters garage and premises, resulting from modifications in access control arrangements in response to the United Nations liquidity crisis, and sought information on the prospects for a return to normal operating hours at the entrances to United Nations premises following the end of the austerity measures.

729. Regarding paragraph 34.17, a delegation sought clarification on the themes and areas of focus of the two evaluations planned for 2025 by the Department and regretted that the responses provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General were far from satisfactory.

730. With regard to result 3 of subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, delegations welcomed the simplification of the process for delegates and staff travelling between duty stations through the introduction of a common security platform to allow the same identification card (grounds pass) to be used in different duty stations. A delegation expressed the view that the concept of a unified global access control system had not been developed in accordance with the plan drafted 20 years ago and sought clarification as to whether the planned target of 2025 took into account lessons learned from previous projects, including past failures.

731. On the strategy for subprogramme 2, Field operations, in particular paragraph 34.32 (c), a delegation observed that the words “including those” had been added to the language of the previous report ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)), and pointed out that those words would widen the scope of the deployment of security personnel. The delegation sought clarification in that regard.

732. Regarding paragraph 34.34, on programme performance in 2023, clarification was sought on the additional security assistance provided to enable United Nations response in locations affected by crises, including information on the process involved and the locations. On the same subject, additional information was sought on how the scale and distribution of work were determined, including any shared responsibilities with United Nations forces on the ground and the Department of Peace Operations.

733. Reference was made to table 34.8 and the performance measure for 2025, namely “Timely coordination and response, with a crisis coordination mechanism established, as required, within 72 hours of a specific crisis”. The view was expressed that, for any given crisis, a rapid response was of crucial importance. Accordingly, clarification was sought on the scientific basis for setting such a long response time for establishing a coordination mechanism during a specific crisis.

734. A delegation drew attention to the celebration of the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations in 2025, emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and property, and trusted that the Department would coordinate with the host country in that regard.

735. With regard to subprogramme 3, Partnerships and specialized support, a delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the physical security experts for their ability to rapidly deploy and provide training solutions and support with regard

to specific safety challenges in different locations as and when they emerged, as indicated in paragraph 34.47 on programme performance in 2023.

736. Regarding figure 34.III, a delegation questioned the rapid growth in the cumulative number of security personnel certified to provide precise and effective security management advice, from 0 in 2021 to 100 in 2022 to 1,126 in 2023, with a planned surge to 3,000 and 4,000 in 2024 and 2025, respectively. The delegation sought clarification on the rationale for such a trend.

Conclusions and recommendations

737. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**

B. Evaluation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

738. At its 4th meeting, on 14 May 2024, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/AC.51/2024/2](#)).

Discussion

739. Delegations expressed thanks to OIOS for the triennial review, noting the importance of internal oversight and the effort to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations. A delegation expressed appreciation for the attention paid by the Department to addressing the dissemination of reports, as requested by OIOS in recommendation 4. The delegation requested the Department to provide an update on steps taken following its own internal evaluation of the impact of its publications, which had been completed in January 2021 and reported under recommendation 4, noting that OIOS had reported that, of 13 recommendations, 5 had been implemented and 7 were in progress. The delegation welcomed updates on the reach of the Department’s publications and its response to the rapidly evolving communications landscape, referencing the figure on website traffic that was below paragraph 40 in the report.

740. Another delegation stated that the implementation of internal oversight and internal accountability served as a means of continuous improvement and of having stewardship of the resources provided by Member States. The delegation requested more details from OIOS on the methodology used to arrive at the conclusion that all the recommendations had been satisfactorily implemented.

Conclusions and recommendations

741. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications

742. At its 14th meeting, on 22 May 2024, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications ([E/AC.51/2024/3](#)).

Discussion

743. Delegations expressed thanks to OIOS for the triennial review, noting the commitment of the Office of the Special Adviser to reforming its programme and implementing the recommendations, with a delegation specifically observing that the Office was much more strategic and coherent as a result. Another delegation noted that OIOS had found improvements in programme delivery as a result of reform and that the implementation of its recommendations was satisfactory. With regard to recommendation 1, the delegation requested an update from the Office of the Special Adviser on the OIOS indication that reporting lines should be established to facilitate the delivery of whole-of-programme strategy and ensure accountability.

744. A delegation, referring to recommendation 4, commended the Office of the Special Adviser on its significant efforts to strengthen its data function and use data to underpin its advocacy, communication and monitoring functions. The delegation asked about challenges to meeting that commitment.

745. Another delegation sought clarification on the identities of the outside partners mentioned in paragraph 32 of the report, asking whether African ambassadors in New York had been involved in the meetings.

Conclusions and recommendations

746. **The Committee welcomed the results of the triennial review and commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications for their timely implementation of recommendations and the resulting enhancement of programme delivery.**

747. **The Committee welcomed the increased level of coordination between the three subprogrammes. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly ensure that the head of the programme had all the instruments required to ensure the integrated management of the programme, in line with the role of programme managers, and also recommended that the Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to advance coordination between the Department of Global Communications, ECA and the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa and strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to manage the resources and programme of work of the three subprogrammes that were part of programme 9.**

748. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS and expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the review.**

749. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to improve coordination between the African Group of Ambassadors in New York and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa through the establishment of a systematic reporting mechanism from the Office to the Secretary-General, following regular meetings between the Special Adviser and the Group, in order to strengthen synergies and coherence between the United Nations and the African Union, in view of the entry into force of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063.

750. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure coherence between Agenda 2063 and the resources made available to the Office of the Special Adviser and the other operational structures (the Department of Global Communications and ECA) deployed by the United Nations in support of Agenda 2063.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the inspection of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

751. At its 6th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the inspection of the evaluation function of UN-Women ([E/AC.51/2024/4](#)).

Discussion

752. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the report. A delegation noted that, with regard to recommendation 2, relating to improved delivery and utility of corporate evaluations, UN-Women should ensure that the Corporate Evaluation Plan reflected the needs of the organization and that corporate evaluations were timely. The importance of formative and more forward-looking evaluations was noted. Another delegation said that it was important for UN-Women to improve how it measured the timeliness of evaluation reports, expressing support for the need for consistent onboarding and training, as well as capacity-building, of monitoring and evaluation officers.

Conclusions and recommendations

753. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the inspection of the evaluation function of UN-Women and expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the review.

Chapter III

Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2023

754. At its 13th meeting, on 21 May 2024, the Committee considered the annual overview report of CEB for 2023 ([E/2024/11](#)).

Discussion

755. Delegations conveyed their thanks to the Secretary of CEB for introducing the annual overview report. Delegations expressed that they had found the report to be edifying and valuable, and a delegation congratulated the Board for having been proactive on topics such as strategic foresight and advances in artificial intelligence. Another delegation commended the measures taken by CEB aimed at strengthening policy coherence and coordination. Hope was expressed by one delegation that CEB would focus on developing uniform approaches to the implementation of mandated activities only with regard to those organizations whose governing bodies had agreed to such work; where that had not been the case, the view was expressed that exceptions to the system-wide practice of CEB should be made.

756. References to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” were noted in the introduction of the CEB annual overview report (paras. 4 and 5). A delegation recalled that Our Common Agenda had been taken note of by Member States in General Assembly resolution [76/307](#) and that it was premature to present it as a road map for national Governments. Similarly, the point was made that Member States had not mandated the United Nations 2.0 initiative, which the Secretary-General had proposed in Our Common Agenda.

757. In the context of CEB work on duties to the future (paras. 6 and 7), it was recalled that Member States were focused on negotiations on the draft Declaration on Future Generations. A delegation expressed its gratitude to the members of the High-level Committee on Programmes Core Group on Duties to the Future for its work in conceptualizing the idea of future generations and informing the intergovernmental negotiations on the draft Declaration. At the same time, it was emphasized that the work of the Core Group should not replace the national priorities and strategic vision of Member States. The point was made that the concept of “rights of future generations” had no legal basis, and that future generations could not be covered by current international human rights treaties. The delegation was of the view that the only way to ensure the well-being and prosperity of future generations was through social development, including poverty reduction, full employment and social inclusion. The importance of preserving cultural diversity and supporting the family as the basic unit of society was also stressed.

758. Moreover, it was highlighted that international data governance was under discussion by Member States in the intergovernmental process to develop the global digital compact. In that context, the delegation observed that the concept of “international data governance that was grounded in human rights” reflected in the annual overview report (para. 8) was not currently recognized under international law.

759. With regard to international drug policy and human rights (paras. 13 and 14), efforts to strengthen coordination among United Nations system entities in the fight against the world drug problem, under the leadership of UNODC, were supported. In that context, a delegation stated that it was essential for guidelines agreed upon by Member States to serve as a reference for all United Nations bodies. A question about

the mandate and the rationale for the focus by CEB on the human rights aspects was posed. A delegation expressed the hope that the final document of the 2024 midterm review of the implementation of political commitments in the fight against the world drug problem, adopted in March 2024 at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, would guide United Nations action on countering narcotics. The delegation further stated that the 2018 United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration was at odds with the vision of global drug policy approved by the Commission and could not be considered to be a basis for the development of technical assistance programmes.

760. Efforts to mainstream the human rights of older persons (para. 15) were supported, and any additional information on concrete steps taken or planned in that context were welcomed. A delegation indicated that it expected that the United Nations would be guided by the practical interests of that population and focus on promoting and protecting all human rights.

761. A delegation called attention to text referencing the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C (para. 23), stating that the wording should be in line with the Paris Agreement to keep the global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and make efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

762. In the context of the work by the CEB machinery on artificial intelligence (paras. 25–27), more information was requested on the timelines of the work by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence of the High-level Committee on Programmes and on the discussions on the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system held during the joint session of the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management on the governance of artificial intelligence. Another delegation enquired about the deadline for the development of a system-wide normative and operational framework for the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system by the task force established under the High-level Committee on Management, and whether it would be made available to Member States or the broader public.

763. With regard to the update on the transition of the Strategic Foresight Network of the High-level Committee on Programmes (para. 34), clarity was sought on what grounds the efforts to support foresight capacities and futures literacy across the United Nations system were being pursued.

764. A delegation expressed support for the CEB goal of driving behavioural change in the work culture of the United Nations system (paras. 35–43), fostering a safe and inclusive working environment while advancing innovations in working methods and preventing and responding to allegations of sexual harassment. Another delegation objected to the use of the word “marginalization” in relation to the work of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations, drawing attention to the statement that “racism, exclusion and marginalization affect workforce morale” (para. 38). In addition, that delegation sought clarity on the meaning of the word “diversity” in the section of the report on “diversity, equity and inclusion”.

765. On the principle of mutual recognition (para. 49) in the United Nations system, which included systems contracts, it was observed by one delegation that, in its resolution [76/274](#), the General Assembly had noted the obligation to comply with the four common procurement principles set out in paragraph 5.12 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations ([ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#)), which in turn had to be respected in the context of enhanced cooperation and system-wide coherence on supply issues.

B. United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

766. At its 14th meeting, on 22 May 2024, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled “United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want” ([E/AC.51/2024/5](#)).

Discussion

767. Some delegations emphasized the importance of strategic coordination between the United Nations and the African Union, with particular focus on the role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and highlighted the need to strengthen system-wide coherence in that regard. Another delegation asked about the Office’s initiatives to address the digital divide, especially at the subregional level. A delegation expressed support for the report’s focus on education and artificial intelligence, while another asked about private sector involvement and expressed support for the emphasis on intergovernmental coordination to advance progress.

Conclusions and recommendations

768. **The Committee commended the Secretary-General on the report and recommended that the General Assembly invite the International Telecommunication Union to accelerate digital transformation in Africa by promoting capacity development activities through projects distributed equitably across the various subregions of the continent.**

769. **The Committee welcomed the establishment of the African Union-United Nations high-level strategic dialogue on sustainable development to enhance strategic coordination between the United Nations and the African Union and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit in the next programme plan the responsibilities of programme 9 in supporting these new mechanisms.**

770. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue working on unleashing the potential of food systems, in particular by exploring the interlinkages between food systems and energy, digitalization and climate adaptation.**

771. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraph 56 of the report.**

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee

772. In accordance with paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution [1979/41](#) and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [34/50](#), the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth session, together with the required documentation.

773. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

774. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the current session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [72/266 A](#), [77/267](#) and [78/244](#));

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form) (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [58/269](#), [59/275](#), [62/224](#), [72/266 A](#), [77/267](#) and [78/244](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/267](#))

- (b) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-second session on the evaluation of the Economic

Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: subprogramme 3 –
Macroeconomic policies and growth

4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024 (Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#))

- (b) United Nations system support for Agenda 2063.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-fifth session.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its sixty-fourth session

E/AC.51/2024/1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/AC.51/2024/L.1/Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2024/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2025: part II: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form)
A/79/6 (Sect. 2)	Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/79/6 (Sect. 3)	Programme 2, Political affairs
A/79/6 (Sect. 4)	Programme 3, Disarmament
A/79/6 (Sect. 5)	Programme 4, Peacekeeping operations
A/79/6 (Sect. 6)	Programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space
A/79/6 (Sect. 8)	Programme 6, Legal affairs
A/79/6 (Sect. 9)	Programme 7, Economic and social affairs
A/79/6 (Sect. 10)	Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/79/6 (Sect. 11)	Programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want
A/79/6 (Sect. 12)	Programme 10, Trade and development
A/79/6 (Sect. 13)	Programme 10, subprogramme 6, International Trade Centre
A/79/6 (Sect. 14)	Programme 11, Environment
A/79/6 (Sect. 15)	Programme 12, Human settlements
A/79/6 (Sect. 16)	Programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/79/6 (Sect. 17)	Programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women
A/79/6 (Sect. 18)	Programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa
A/79/6 (Sect. 19)	Programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/79/6 (Sect. 20)	Programme 17, Economic development in Europe
A/79/6 (Sect. 21)	Programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/79/6 (Sect. 22)	Programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/79/6 (Sect. 24)	Programme 20, Human rights

A/79/6 (Sect. 25)	Programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
A/79/6 (Sect. 26)	Programme 22, Palestine refugees
A/79/6 (Sect. 27)	Programme 23, Humanitarian assistance
A/79/6 (Sect. 28)	Programme 24, Global communications
A/79/6 (Sect. 29)	Programme 25, Management and support services
A/79/6 (Sect. 29A)	Programme 25, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
A/79/6 (Sect. 29B)	Programme 25, Department of Operational Support
A/79/6 (Sect. 29C)	Programme 25, Office of Information and Communications Technology
A/79/6 (Sect. 29D)	Programme 25, Administration, Nairobi
A/79/6 (Sect. 29E)	Programme 25, Administration, Geneva
A/79/6 (Sect. 29F)	Programme 25, Administration, Vienna
A/79/6 (Sect. 30)	Programme 26, Internal oversight
A/79/6 (Sect. 31)	Programme 27, Jointly financed activities
A/79/6 (Sect. 34)	Programme 28, Safety and security
E/AC.51/2024/6	Note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan for 2025 by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
E/AC.51/2024/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/AC.51/2024/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications
E/AC.51/2024/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its sixty-first session on the inspection of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
E/2024/11	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2023 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2024/5	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

E/AC.51/2024/7	Statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2024/L.3	Note by the Secretariat: draft provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2024/L.4 and addenda	Draft report of the Committee

