



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

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

(Madrid, 7 and 8 October 2024)

I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its forty-eighth session on 7 and 8 October 2024 in Madrid, generously hosted by the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism). The agenda of the session and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present report.

2. In opening the meeting, the Chair of the Committee, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen, expressed deep gratitude to UN Tourism for generously hosting the meeting.

3. The Executive Director and Special Representative of UN Tourism to the United Nations in Geneva, Zoritsa Urosevic, provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the Secretary-General of UN Tourism, Zurab Pololikashvili. Observing that the Committee was meeting at a pivotal moment for the United Nations and the global community, Ms. Urosevic noted that at the Summit of the Future, participants had called on the international community to rethink the foundations of global cooperation to build inclusive and innovative multilateralism that could adapt to the rapid rise of such technologies as artificial intelligence and move beyond traditional measures of progress, such as gross domestic product (GDP). She highlighted that global tourism stood as a powerful sector that could foster mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and cooperation, ultimately contributing to peaceful, inclusive societies.

4. In her opening remarks, the Chair reflected on the eventful weeks in New York during the Summit of the Future, which left many with a sense of both optimism that agreement had been reached and apprehension in the face of a deeply divided and increasingly polarized world. She recalled the many challenges confronting people and the United Nations, in particular in Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Ukraine, and noted that while the understanding and narratives with respect to the root causes of tensions and conflict differed, people suffered just the same. There was a need to agree on the basic principles, such as the Charter of the United Nations, the sanctity of life and the inviolability of borders. Against that backdrop, The Pact for the Future and its annexes provided a positive signal that needed to be followed up. The United Nations system



needed to stand ready to help turn aspirations into reality. The Committee provided a unique space for uniting the United Nations system in the face of complex and difficult times and for discussions on follow-up to the Summit.

5. In presenting the session agenda for adoption by the Committee, the Chair indicated that HLCP would have an opportunity at the current session to reflect on the outcomes of the Summit of the Future and their implications and address the issues of artificial intelligence, internal displacement, climate change and transnational organized crime.

II. Stocktaking and scoping discussion in follow-up to the Summit of the Future

6. The Chair observed that the United Nations system had been awaiting the outcome of the Summit of the Future, conceived by the Secretary-General following the commemorations of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. She recalled that in October 2021, the Committee had collectively committed to doing its part to support key themes contained in the report of the Secretary-General “Our Common Agenda”, agreeing on a strategic narrative to guide its work. Several HLCP workstreams had informed the Summit of the Future, as well as other intergovernmental consultations. The Committee would take the opportunity in the aftermath of the Summit to look back on what the Committee had learned in the process and explore where HLCP could add value to help address ongoing and future challenges. The agenda item would include a brief overview of the outcomes of the Summit of the Future and its follow-up, a stocktaking of recent HLCP work and its contribution to intergovernmental consultations, and a forward-looking scoping discussion. The Chair welcomed the Director, Summit of the Future/Common Agenda Team, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Michèle Griffin, to the session and invited her to present on the outcomes of the Summit to set the scene for the deliberations of the Committee.

7. Ms. Griffin reflected on the aim of the Summit to stimulate discussion on a reset of global governance and international cooperation and provide an opportunity to demonstrate unity and solidarity. She observed that the outcome was one of the most comprehensive in United Nations history, including agreement on new issues (e.g., artificial intelligence, digital cooperation, future generations and reform of the international financial architecture) and on topics where there had not been meaningful agreement in years (e.g., nuclear disarmament and Security Council reform). Nearly all the ideas put forward in Our Common Agenda and the subsequent policy briefs had been reflected in some form in The Pact for the Future and its annexes. Ms. Griffin expressed gratitude to HLCP and all those in the United Nations system who had contributed to the collaborative effort under the leadership of the Secretary-General, recognizing it as a significant achievement.

8. Noting that most of the outcomes were to be taken forward by Member States, Ms. Griffin outlined the tasks addressed to the United Nations system. Notable among them was the requirement to support critical intergovernmental processes mandated or amplified by the Pact. She underscored that the Summit signified the start of sustained efforts, with reviews scheduled for 2027 on the implementation of the Global Digital Compact and for 2028 on The Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations. Although progress on the constituent parts of the Pact would be advanced independently, she stressed that the value of the Summit had been in pulling disparate ideas together in a larger conversation and, in that context, noted that the holistic review of progress in the future would be important.

9. The Chair thanked Ms. Griffin for her presentation and congratulated her and her colleagues for having successfully delivered such a comprehensive and impactful Summit. She then invited members to pose any specific questions to Ms. Griffin about Our Common Agenda, the Summit process, its outcomes or follow-up.

10. Responding to questions raised, Ms. Griffin stated that the key message to take forward from the process was that international cooperation remained effective and meaningful agreements attainable and that States wanted to work together through the United Nations, which continued to serve as a vital platform for multilateralism. Regarding the follow-up process and next steps, Ms. Griffin informed members that the Secretary-General would be setting up a steering committee for the implementation of The Pact to take forward the tasks of the United Nations system.

11. The Chair thanked Ms. Griffin for sharing her experiences and insights, congratulating her again for her role in directing the Summit process.

A. Stocktaking of recent HLCP workstreams

12. The Chair invited members to look back at how HLCP efforts over the past three years had informed The Pact for the Future and its annexes. She asked representatives of the four HLCP workstreams that had been the most closely connected to the Summit to provide a short assessment of the accomplishments of their workstream in relation to the intergovernmental consultations, as well as recommendations for future actions.

13. The Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Tomas Lamanuskas, and the HLCP representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), speaking on behalf of the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, Gabriela Ramos, reported that the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence had made significant strides, among other things, producing the Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System and the United Nations system white paper on artificial intelligence governance, which had informed relevant deliberations on the issue. The work had been crucial in shaping the discussions of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, also contributing to the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact. The Director of Statistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Anu Peltola, presented on the Beyond GDP initiative and highlighted that the initiative had produced the paper “Valuing What Counts: United Nations System-wide Contribution on Beyond Gross Domestic Product”, integrating insights from across the United Nations system. The paper had formed the basis of the policy brief on that topic, thereby influencing the deliberations of Member States on The Pact, which, in action 53, committed to developing a framework on measures of progress on sustainable development to complement and go beyond GDP. The Chief of Foresight and Policy, Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, United Nations Children’s Fund, Jasmina Byrne, noted that the duties to the future workstream had produced three significant outputs, most notably the United Nations System Common Principles on Future Generations, which were helping to mainstream intergenerational equity and future generations considerations in the United Nations agenda and had informed the Declaration on Future Generations. Lastly, the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Angela Me, reported on two key outputs produced by the HLCP Working Group on International Data Governance, namely, “International Data Governance: Pathways to Progress” and “Proposed Normative Foundations for International Data Governance: Goals and Principles”, offering a vision for a multilateral approach to international data

governance that responsibly unlocked the full value of data for all, with accountability and agility, many elements of which were reflected in the Global Digital Compact.

14. Looking ahead, the workstream leads offered several recommendations. Referring to the more detailed discussion the Committee had on the subject at the current session, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence advocated for enhanced United Nations system collaboration to shape artificial intelligence for good and capacity-building to adapt to rapid technological changes. The co-leads of the Beyond GDP workstream advised that HLCP signal its readiness to contribute technical and analytical support to the follow-up to The Pact and offer to serve as a platform for system-wide consultations with the independent high-level expert group. The duties to the future workstream recommended that HLCP continue to promote the application of the Common Principles within its coordination mandate and look for opportunities to model long-term thinking and governance approaches in its work. Furthermore, individual United Nations system entities needed to promote and implement the Common Principles and contribute to the implementation of the Declaration on Future Generations, among other things, aiming to cultivate a forward-thinking culture and capabilities within their organizations. Lastly, in the context of the intergovernmental process towards equitable and interoperable data mandated by the Global Digital Compact, the international data governance working group co-lead stressed the importance of maintaining coherence in communication and approach to data governance across the United Nations system based on the foundation provided by the papers produced by the workstream.

15. In the ensuing discussion, speakers noted with appreciation the manner in which HLCP workstreams had been able to inform intergovernmental deliberations on critical issues. The unique value of the Committee in bringing the United Nations system together to “think as one” was recognized in that context. Regarding the process to develop measures of progress to complement and go beyond GDP, members pointed to the need for an inclusive process that drew on the capacities and expertise of key stakeholders, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the importance of recognizing human and natural capital for measuring sustainable growth, and the relevance of ongoing work by the Statistical Commission, as well as on the multidimensional vulnerability index, which had recently been adopted by the General Assembly. Concerning international data governance, the Committee was informed that the forthcoming session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would consider establishing a working group on data governance.

16. Concluding the stocktaking discussion, the Chair expressed her appreciation to all presenters for their contributions. Further, she drew attention to the array of CEB initiatives that were in alignment with the Secretary-General’s United Nations 2.0 vision, recalling that HLCP, along with the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), had a role in providing overall guidance on the roll-out of the quintet of change. She stressed the importance of each organization seeking opportunities to apply those skills to its processes.

17. The Chair confirmed the decision by HLCP to close out the 2021 strategic narrative. Commending the groups for their work, she noted the closure of the Core Group on Duties to the Future and the working group on international data governance further to the successful completion of their tasks. She verified that the Committee was prepared to note the recommendations proposed by the four workstreams. Thanking and congratulating the co-leads for their time and effort to fulfil the responsibilities of their workstreams, the Chair recognized that all four of those areas of work remained of central importance to the United Nations agenda and that HLCP might be called upon in the future to gather the technical knowledge and fresh thinking of the system to support the endeavours of Member States. Meanwhile, the Chair acknowledged that each entity, drawing on its specific expertise and mandates,

continued to play a vital role in supporting the Summit outcomes and other intergovernmental processes.

Conclusion

18. **The Committee decided to close out the 2021 strategic narrative and noted the closure of the Core Group on Duties to the Future and the working group on international data governance further to the completion of their tasks. Moreover, the Committee noted the recommendations proposed by the four workstreams.**

B. Scoping discussion: Summit of the Future follow-up and meeting future challenges

19. The Chair welcomed the guest speaker, Provost of the IE University in Madrid and Professor of the Practice of International Relations, Manuel Muñiz. Over the course of the discussion, members were asked to reflect, from a United Nations system perspective, on key outcomes of the Summit of the Future and their impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to identify strategic opportunities for the United Nations system to work together through HLCP in support of their implementation. The Chair also requested that they consider future challenges, over the next 20 to 30 years, that would have major implications for societies and economies and the kinds of socioeconomic policies and governance models that might be needed in the future. She invited Mr. Muñiz to speak broadly on current and future global challenges to frame the discussion.

20. In his presentation, Mr. Muñiz examined the interlinkages of several mega trends and global disruptors: rapid technological advancement, the unravelling of the liberal international order and profound shifts in the global economic landscape. Technological advancements had brought about major changes in global politics and economics, leading, on the one hand, to immense global wealth creation, while, on the other hand, contributing to sharp and growing inequalities, both within and between countries. Moreover, competition for global dominance over technology and digital resources had further sharpened political divides, leading to intense competition and global tensions. Domestically, the growing loss of faith in democratic institutions and anti-system sentiments coupled with an overall disenchantment with the capacity of liberal institutions to deliver a more safe, just and prosperous world undermined democratic governance institutions and marked the unravelling of the international liberal order.

21. Mr. Muñiz underscored the profound effects of digital technology on economic and social dynamics, ranging from disruptions in job markets to wage stagnation and inequality, noting that many jobs were at considerable risk of automation. These would have long-term implications for education, employment, livelihoods and governance, ultimately requiring a new social contract for the digital era. Such a new social contract would entail the promotion of fairer taxation, new industrial policies, and labour rights in the gig economy. He saw a role for the United Nations system in supporting Member States in the possible elaboration of a new social contract for the digital era within the context of the post-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development process. To effectively respond to those mega trends, Mr. Muñiz encouraged the United Nations system to prepare itself for a world that was more fragmented and harder to govern by leveraging such technological capacities as foresight, data analytics and behavioural science, promoting multistakeholder engagement (including the private sector) and inclusive multilateralism and effectively utilizing its broad mandates, including in the areas of peace, security and diplomacy, on global

governance of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, climate action, global health and migration.

22. Members expressed appreciation for the insightful and thought-provoking presentation by Mr. Muñiz, which had informed and inspired their discussion on strategic entry points for the United Nations system in the follow-up to the Summit of the Future and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as meeting the needs of people and planet beyond 2030. His presentation had underscored the imperative to deal with complexity and uncertainty through an intersectional approach, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of the wider United Nations system. That reality spoke to the importance of HLCP as a mechanism to bring member entities together to address issues in an interconnected, multidisciplinary, multisectoral and systemic manner. Here, the diversity of the Committee was seen as its strength.

23. It was observed that HLCP provided a forum for discussion where a broad cross-section of the United Nations system could collaborate on issues that did not belong to any one entity. The Committee could add value through its work by continuing to promote and defend core United Nations norms, principles and values; seek to strengthen multilateralism and pursue a balanced approach that took into account the circumstances and perspectives of all countries; and support longer-term planning. Moreover, the United Nations system had a role in inspiring hope and, in that context, HLCP was important in bringing United Nations entities together to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and address critical gaps through inter-agency collaboration.

24. Throughout the discussion, members identified a wide range of potential opportunities for the United Nations system to work together through HLCP on both near- and medium-term issues. Behavioural science and foresight tools were identified as important to ensure balanced discussions on critical issues affecting the world. Leveraging, connecting and scaling up existing United Nations horizon-scanning capacities had the potential to help with prioritization and the achievement of greater collective impact.

25. Concretely, members offered ways to support the implementation of The Pact for the Future. Many of the actions in the Pact provided guidance to and anticipated further work at upcoming summits and events, creating opportunities to build on the agreements in The Pact and advance its actions. It was suggested that HLCP could make a contribution to upcoming intergovernmental processes, including the Second World Summit on Social Development and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2025. Members saw a role for HLCP in helping to raise the visibility of social justice, social exclusion, inequalities and human rights and rally action in that regard, particularly in a rapidly changing technological environment. Further, it was observed that the United Nations system had an important part to play in promoting economic systems that delivered for people and in ensuring that future wealth – generated through artificial intelligence, for example – did not lead to a breakdown in societies, but rather would be shared in a sustainable and equitable way.

26. As echoed in the discussion on internal displacement, members considered that HLCP could make a contribution towards a more coherent and systemic approach to prevention in all its dimensions. Prevention had been called out in actions 18, 19, 20 and 44 of The Pact related to peace and security, and members also drew linkages to disaster risk, climate change, new technology and innovation, human rights, the social contract, disease, governance and financing. Here, again, data and foresight were seen as important tools to support prevention, and it was observed that the renewed commitment expressed in The Pact by Member States to a preventative approach

might offer opportunities to spur the necessary supportive action by United Nations entities and attain greater system-wide coherence.

27. In line with action 8 of The Pact, namely, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, gender was seen as another entry point that was ripe for enhanced United Nations system collaboration. Recognizing work that was ongoing in various forums, including in preparation for the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) in 2025, there was a need to present a united front to support Goal 5, support fighting the global backlash on women's rights and equality and mobilize on non-discrimination.

28. Action 53 of The Pact, namely, to develop a framework on measures of progress on sustainable development to complement and go beyond GDP, also provided an opportunity to build on prior work by HLCP. As agreed in the stocktaking discussion, the Committee was ready to contribute technical and analytical support to advance the Beyond GDP initiative, as well as to serve as a forum for system-wide consultations with the independent high-level expert group to be established by the Secretary-General.

29. Members saw merit in looking more deeply into the consequences of demographic change and population dynamics, including changing population age structures and appropriate policies to help manage that shift, also in support of paragraph 20 of annex II to the Declaration on Future Generations, in which Member States pledged to strengthen cooperation in their response to demographic trends and realities, as well as in addressing the interlinkages between population issues and development.

30. A number of entry points in sectoral areas were also put forward, including outer space, digital inclusion, emerging technologies, food security and food systems, human mobility and renewable energy.

31. Proposals for work with a longer-term perspective were also offered. Notably, a role was foreseen for HLCP to leverage the breadth and diversity of its membership to contribute to thinking on what could succeed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular taking into consideration anticipated transformational changes to the world, including those brought on by technology. In that context, some members noted the importance of adaptability of governance systems to sustain prevention and resilience for future generations and the need for international conventions to remain relevant and responsive to contemporary global challenges.

32. Wrapping up the agenda item, the Chair thanked HLCP members for the rich conversation and expressed her appreciation to Mr. Muñiz for his insights and analysis. She recounted a number of the observations and suggestions made by members over the course of the broad-ranging scoping discussion, requesting the HLCP secretariat to follow up with the relevant members to further explore the proposed opportunities.

III. Use and governance of artificial intelligence and related frontier technologies

33. The Chair invited members to consider the matter of the use and governance of artificial intelligence and related frontier technologies. She welcomed the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU, Tomas Lamanauskas, and the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, Gabriela Ramos, as co-chairs of the

Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and presenters for the agenda item. The Chair recalled that HLCP and CEB had been examining the role of the United Nations system in addressing opportunities and risks related to artificial intelligence since 2017, and, in 2019, had agreed on a United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence (CEB/2019/1/Add.3). In 2020, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence had been established to bring together the expertise of the United Nations system in support of the ethics of artificial intelligence and capacity development. The Chair recalled that the Working Group had delivered significant outputs over the years, including the principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system (CEB/2022/2/Add.1) and, more recently, the United Nations system white paper on artificial intelligence governance (CEB/2024/1/Add.1), offered as a system-wide contribution to the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. The Chair further observed that the Committee, at its forty-seventh session, had requested the Working Group to develop a proposal for enhancing United Nations system coordination and policy coherence in support of artificial intelligence governance, taking into account relevant recommendations contained in the white paper and evolving guidance from Member States, for consideration by HLCP at the present session.

34. The Chair acknowledged the unique context in which the Committee was addressing the item, namely, two weeks after the Summit of the Future and the adoption of The Pact for the Future, which included the annexed Global Digital Compact. The Global Digital Compact established a comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation and laid the foundations for inclusive governance of artificial intelligence. The Chair observed that the Compact was a complex document, outlining a series of actions and commitments that required careful consideration regarding their follow-up and implementation. Members were reminded that discussions on the implementation of the Compact and the operationalization of its commitments were occurring outside of HLCP and were beyond the remit of the Committee, with work already commencing under the leadership of the Secretary-General in support of intergovernmental follow-up processes. The Chair encouraged members to reflect broadly on the issue of artificial intelligence and the role of the United Nations system and to consider and provide guidance on the proposal, which outlined a series of activities to be undertaken by the Working Group over a 12-month period.

35. In her presentation, Ms. Ramos thanked members for their support of the Working Group and recognized the Global Digital Compact as a significant achievement towards enhancing artificial intelligence governance to which the Working Group had made important contributions. Ms. Ramos observed that the final report of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence had included rich references to the existing normative instruments and frameworks under the auspices of United Nations system entities, based on the analysis provided in the United Nations system white paper on artificial intelligence governance. With the adoption of the Global Digital Compact, United Nations system coordination and policy coherence on artificial intelligence governance remained crucial, as the Compact emphasized the need for enhanced coordination across the United Nations system to achieve an inclusive platform for digital cooperation. The Compact, in paragraph 72, proposed the establishment of an office to facilitate system-wide coordination, working closely with existing mechanisms. She noted that the proposal before the Committee had resulted from an inclusive process that had incorporated inputs from Working Group members. The proposal intended to leverage the existing mandate and functions of the Working Group, outlining activities aimed at further enhancing efforts on inter-agency coordination and collaboration as well as activities to implement relevant recommendations from the white paper. In closing, Ms. Ramos

underscored the importance of monitoring discussions related to the implementation of the Compact while maintaining collaborative efforts among United Nations entities.

36. Mr. Lamanauskas echoed the critical importance of inter-agency collaboration, acknowledging the significant contributions made by the Working Group over the years. Recognizing that implementation modalities for the Global Digital Compact were subject to further deliberations by Member States, he noted that the proposal was of a transitional nature covering a 12-month period. In introducing the proposal, he outlined its key recommendations on enhancing United Nations system coordination on artificial intelligence, including the need for enhanced collaboration in the area of capacity-building aligned with the United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence; strengthening collaboration with other United Nations inter-agency mechanisms, including the United Nations Group on the Information Society; and facilitating engagement with other stakeholders through such established forums as the Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the AI for Good Global Summit. Mr. Lamanauskas also outlined relevant recommendations from the white paper, including developing a comprehensive United Nations system artificial intelligence toolbox, expanding and refining taxonomies for normative and technical guidance and developing in-house artificial intelligence and foresight capabilities, building on work undertaken by HLCM.

37. In conclusion, Mr. Lamanauskas reiterated the commitment by ITU and UNESCO to provide dedicated resources to support the initiatives of the Working Group and invited HLCP members to consider making additional contributions. He expressed his gratitude for the effective collaboration to date, emphasizing the necessity of a coordinated approach as the United Nations navigated the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence.

38. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee reiterated strong support for the efforts of the Working Group, with many members emphasizing the importance of a coordinated United Nations approach to tackle the complex challenges posed by artificial intelligence. Members supported the continuation of the Working Group for 12 months, recognizing the urgency of addressing challenges in the rapidly evolving technological landscape, in particular concerning the need for new technologies to support the Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind. The potential for artificial intelligence to exacerbate inequalities, misinformation and vulnerabilities was a key concern, prompting calls for immediate action, in particular for capacity-building efforts. The sense of urgency was further reinforced by the observation that artificial intelligence was advancing more rapidly than institutions were able to adapt to change. Governance of artificial intelligence needed to reflect the principles of equity, transparency and accountability and had to be human-centred.

39. The Committee thanked the co-chairs for the proposal, which served as a useful basis for discussion. Members emphasized the importance of alignment between the proposal and the direction provided by Global Digital Compact and asked for more clarity on the linkages, in particular regarding the establishment of the proposed office to facilitate system-wide coordination, working closely with existing mechanisms, as stipulated in the Global Digital Compact. Noting that there would be a process, outside of HLCP, for implementation of the Compact and for developing mechanisms agreed to under the Compact, there was a need for the Working Group to be mindful of that process and to be closely associated with its aims. In that context, it was suggested that the Working Group engage in a thorough consultation process to examine how the Group could add value to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, working with other partners and avoiding duplication of efforts. Members

considered that effective collaboration on the issue across all entities was a real test for the United Nations to meet the challenges posed by the new technology.

40. Regarding specific activities for the Working Group to undertake as outlined in the proposal, members emphasized the need for prioritization and for focusing on a limited number of activities that could be delivered in a 12-month time frame. In that context, it was suggested to narrow the proposal's scope and focus it firmly on areas that were appropriate and suitable for the work of the Committee, namely, policy coherence and coordination, while leaving elements that concerned engagement with Member States and/or that were of an operational nature to forums that had a mandate in that area. Furthermore, the importance of linkages with relevant work by HLCM and the United Nations 2.0 initiative was emphasized. Members offered a number of suggestions for concrete actions that the Working Group could undertake, including mapping skills in the area of capacity-building, comparing taxonomies to identify gaps in sectoral guidance on artificial intelligence, addressing sector-specific needs, developing humanitarian-specific ethical guidelines within the artificial intelligence governance framework, coordinating and aligning research on the deployment of artificial intelligence readiness tool and methodologies among all United Nations entities and looking more deeply at data for artificial intelligence. Most members supported the proposal to develop an artificial intelligence toolbox, taxonomies and sandboxes, but more information on the details of that work was requested.

41. Many members identified enhanced capacity-building as a priority area for action in order to effectively support Member States, in particular developing countries, to harness artificial intelligence technologies. The need for tailored approaches to local contexts and specific needs was highlighted, along with inter-agency collaboration to share resources and knowledge. Developing a road map for capacity-building activities, including understanding target audiences and budget considerations, was deemed important. Moreover, the capacity of Member States, in particular developing countries, to establish their own national coordination mechanisms on artificial intelligence was considered critical. Collaboration with the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund to incubate a programme for supporting the artificial intelligence capacity-building of Member States could be explored.

42. Members called for greater adherence to ethical considerations within artificial intelligence governance frameworks to protect vulnerable populations. The role of data in artificial intelligence outcomes was discussed, emphasizing the need for ethical data management. Members highlighted the importance of addressing gender and geographical bias in artificial intelligence systems to ensure that the technology promoted gender equality and did not perpetuate existing inequalities and left no one behind. Concerns regarding the nefarious use of artificial intelligence were also raised, and the erosion of trust in science owing to misinformation was identified as a pressing issue that needed to be addressed. Concerns regarding the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence, in particular the high energy demands and associated carbon emissions, were raised as critical issues that must be considered as part of artificial intelligence governance.

43. In response to the comments of the Committee, Ms. Ramos thanked members for their support for the continuing work of the Working Group and for the substantive feedback provided to guide the Group's work and the proposal. On the alignment with the Global Digital Compact, she reiterated that proposed activities would support and integrate with ongoing discussions on its operationalization and follow-up mechanisms. Within that context, Mr. Lamanauskas noted the commitment to work with United Nations system partners to support those efforts. He reiterated the importance of collaborating across the United Nations system to amplify voices and engage effectively with diverse stakeholders.

44. The Chair thanked Ms. Ramos and Mr. Lamanuskas for leading the Working Group and expressed her appreciation to HLCP members for their thoughtful and rich comments on the proposal. The Chair observed that members recognized the need for continued inter-agency coordination on artificial intelligence, generally expressing support for the work of the Working Group. A variety of views were expressed on the proposal, notably with regard to greater alignment and integration with the Global Digital Compact and its follow-up processes taking place outside of HLCP. The Working Group needed to concentrate on its primary role as an inter-agency coordination mechanism focused on policy coherence, rather than operational matters, which were addressed in other forums.

45. There was a strong sense of urgency and a call to deliver concrete and practical outputs, prioritizing the most pressing issues, including capacity-building. In that context, the Chair suggested that the Working Group consider possibly revisiting the road map for supporting capacity development on artificial intelligence, endorsed by CEB in 2019, and ensure that its work was complementary to relevant efforts undertaken by HLCM. In conclusion, she asked the co-chairs to organize a thorough consultation process within the Working Group to find common ground on the basis of the feedback and guidance provided by the Committee and prepare a revised proposal to be submitted to HLCP for virtual review. She reiterated the recommendation that the Working Group prioritize activities that were achievable within a one-year time frame, while being mindful of processes related to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact led by the Secretary-General.

Conclusion

46. The Committee recognized the need for continued inter-agency coordination on artificial intelligence and supported the continuation of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence for 12 months.

47. The Committee requested the co-chairs of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence to lead further consultations within the Working Group to prepare a revised proposal on the basis of the feedback and guidance provided by the Committee, for virtual review and approval by HLCP.

IV. Promoting system-wide coherence on internal displacement

48. The Chair recalled that HLCP had agreed to pursue enhanced coherence in the work of the United Nations on internal displacement at its forty-sixth session, in October 2023, following on from and building on the conclusions of the 2021 report of the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement and the Secretary-General's 2022 Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. The Committee had considered that HLCP, with its broad membership and its coordination mandate, was well-placed to address the multidimensional challenge. With internal displacement on the rise, the Chair underscored the importance of the work and invited the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Robert Piper, to present the draft United Nations system-wide approach to internal displacement, prepared by the HLCP working group on internal displacement under his leadership.

49. Mr. Piper opened by commending the collaborative efforts of the HLCP working group to shape the United Nations system-wide approach to this critical issue. The number of internally displaced persons was increasing worldwide at an alarming rate driven by conflict, disasters and climate change, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced coordinated responses. The system-wide approach represented a comprehensive and cohesive framework for both the country and global levels. It sought to integrate existing United Nations inter-agency structures, address systemic

challenges and promote solutions for linking preventive measures across pillars. Key enablers for fostering that interconnectedness included enhanced data management, strategic planning, analysis, funding, forecasting, and coordination structures, all of which were critical to effectively addressing the complexities of internal displacement.

50. The 11 recommendations put forward in the system-wide approach, some of which were already being implemented, addressed three core systemic challenges: visibility of the issue, and the predictability and agility of the United Nations system response. To ensure a sustainable and predictable United Nations system response to those challenges, three inter-agency coordination mechanisms were proposed: a small operational hub, a global solutions steering group, and a consultative group that would meet annually to promote ongoing support and collaboration among United Nations system entities. In addition, a solutions champions group, made up of three to four United Nations principals, would provide global leadership and advocacy and ensure predictable institutional support to resident coordinators and resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators on solutions at the country level. The operational details of those future institutional arrangements would be decided by the Executive Committee, while ongoing work on operational guidance for country teams would be taken forward under the auspices of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and potentially the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

51. Before opening the floor for discussion, the Chair acknowledged that HLCP did not have authority over many of the mechanisms named in the draft, nor would it normally delve into operational issues. The intent was to seek the support of the Committee for the system-wide approach as an overall understanding of how all elements worked together to promote coherence and cross-pillar integration and to welcome the reconfigured global support arrangements.

52. In the ensuing discussion, members expressed their appreciation for the leadership and personal commitment of the Special Adviser and the important role of his office in raising visibility of the issue and promoting coordination among United Nations system entities on internal displacement. Members praised the inclusive and consultative process that the Special Adviser had led to develop the system-wide approach under HLCP, lessons from which could be applied to other HLCP workstreams and inter-agency processes.

53. Members universally welcomed and strongly supported the draft system-wide approach, which put forward substantive and comprehensive recommendations at both the global and country levels and aligned well with the IASC management response to the independent review of the humanitarian response to internal displacement. Such an integrated and systemic approach was needed to bring clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities and to promote coordination on internal displacement; its implementation would need to be accompanied by behavioural change. Members pledged the continued support of their organizations at both the global and country levels in the implementation phase, with several expressing interest in engaging with the hub and the internally displaced persons solutions consultative group.

54. It was recommended that the new global coordination structures should be light, maintaining a focus on country-level outcomes and ensuring alignment and complementarity between humanitarian and development coordination structures, as foreseen in the system-wide approach. Members stressed the importance of identifying an existing coordination mechanism into which the steering group and hub would “dock”. The food systems hub was noted as an example that might provide some lessons to inform the operationalization of the solutions hub.

55. It was suggested that the practitioner's guidance be approved by both UNSDG and IASC to ensure country-level consistency. To be useful in a wide variety of contexts, the guidance should be flexible and needed to remain a living document that took into account lessons learned over time. Clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the solutions champions group would be helpful. Further consultations on details of the global coordination arrangement and some of the instruments, such as the guidance, protocol and global data platform, were also welcomed. While leveraging and building on existing data initiatives, care was necessary to avoid duplicating datasets and systems within and outside of the United Nations. Strengthening the collection of gender-disaggregated data was also needed to fill gaps.

56. Appreciating that the impact of the system-wide approach would be felt most directly at the national and subnational levels, members recognized the leadership role of resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators; the need to provide United Nations country teams with support, guidance, tools, incentives and enhanced capacity; and the importance of the country-level solutions working groups to promote coordination with development actors on the ground. Noting that interconnectedness was the core United Nations offer to governments, it was stressed that prevention, response and solutions for displaced populations should be addressed in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks for countries that hosted protracted displaced populations or were at risk of doing so. In that context, supporting Member States to develop more resilient strategies focused on the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons, was an important function of United Nations system entities. The need to ensure a human-rights-based approach across prevention, response and solutions was underscored. It was noted that area-based programming was particularly important in contexts where local authorities were responsible for the response. Deeper reflections on the intersection among internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities would be needed.

57. Members echoed the call by the Special Adviser to strengthen prevention and preparedness, including by rebuilding the social contract, building resilience and capacity at local levels, incorporating internal displacement in disaster risk reduction and response strategies and using scientific climate projections to prevent new displacement. Mass forced displacement was projected to cause acute disruption in coming years and further discussion on how to prepare the United Nations to provide the necessary support would be required. The linkage to conflict resolution and peacebuilding was also highlighted as an enabling factor for effective solutions to displacement.

58. Improved agility to keep pace with the situational reality on the ground was noted as particularly critical. Unlocking development finance, including mobilizing domestic and private sector resources, pooled funding, bilateral financing and resources from international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, was seen as crucial to changing the existing dynamic and providing for sustainable solutions. Predictability of the United Nations system response on internal displacement was seen as key to mobilizing resources, in particular development funding.

59. The inclusion of the voices of displaced people at both the global and national levels was stressed and would be important for success. In addition, members raised the vital role of partners, with emphasis on engaging with local actors, regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, workers' organizations, academia and national human rights institutions, among others. The need to promote women's leadership in decision-making and dialogue was stressed. Opportunities to raise visibility and further discussions among Member States in the context of the work of the Economic and Social Council, including the quadrennial comprehensive policy

review, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and voluntary national reviews were reiterated.

60. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Piper expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support, strong commitment and insightful feedback received from the Committee. Responding to questions and comments raised by members, he emphasized the necessity of government ownership and involvement in the solutions process and recalled the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons in enhancing dialogue with governments. He recognized the issue of intersectionality between internally displaced persons and refugees, calling for clearer distinctions in accountability and responsibilities. Regarding data, Mr. Piper reiterated the need for an internal global data platform and noted the significant achievement by the World Bank and the African Development Bank in including internally displaced persons in their scorecards for the first time in 2024. Lastly, he underscored the need for a more systemic approach to prevention across the United Nations system, in particular funding for prevention and risk reduction, advocating for mechanisms that encouraged investment in preparedness and early intervention. In closing, he underlined the importance of continuing the collective effort to shape the future of internal displacement solutions and thanked all participants for their support and collaboration.

61. In concluding the agenda item, the Chair recognized the excellent collaboration and broad engagement of HLCP member organizations in the development of the United Nations system-wide approach to internal displacement. She confirmed the Committee's support for the approach, including the reconfigured global arrangements, which would be transmitted to CEB for members to note. It would subsequently be forwarded to the Chair of UNSDG and the Development Coordination Office so that country-level coordination could be informed in an appropriate manner. In that context, the Chair saw the need for HLCP to encourage the actors and mechanisms responsible for the constituent parts of the approach to review the recommendations addressed to them and consider how they could best carry them forward within their respective mandates and in the context of the overall approach.

Conclusion

62. The Committee supported the draft United Nations system-wide approach to internal displacement (CEB/2024/6/Add.1) in its entirety, pending the integration of additional comments from members, and welcomed the design for the reconfigured global support arrangements. The Committee encouraged the actors and mechanisms responsible for the constituent parts of the system-wide approach to review the recommendations addressed to them and consider if and how to take them forward within their respective mandates and in the context of the overall system-wide approach.

V. Climate change: United Nations system contribution to the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

63. The Chair invited the Committee to turn its attention to the United Nations system-wide contribution to the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and reminded that the objective of the discussion was to receive an update on the preparations for the twenty-ninth session and to identify areas where a collective push

of the United Nations system would help to advance positive outcomes in Baku. She recalled that, at the request of the Secretary-General, a set of common messages, designed to enable the United Nations system to speak with one voice, had been approved by HLCP at an intersessional meeting in July 2024 and subsequently endorsed by CEB. The Chair expressed hope that the common messages had been widely circulated within entities and emphasized key areas for progress, including article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the new collective quantified goal on climate finance and more ambitious nationally determined contributions 3.0 to be submitted in 2025. There could be merit in reviewing and, if necessary, updating the common messages following the conclusion of the twenty-ninth session. Expressing her appreciation, the Chair invited Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination Division, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to take the floor and provide the Committee with an update on the twenty-ninth session.

64. Thanking the members of the climate working group for their support, also on behalf of the Climate Action Team of the Secretary-General, Mr. Violetti welcomed that the common messages had been taken up and encouraged entities to continue using and disseminating them widely. He recalled the important links among the twenty-eighth session, focused on the global stocktake, the twenty-ninth session, dedicated to climate finance, and the thirtieth session, considered the “moment of truth” by which point the annual synthesis report of the nationally determined contributions would be produced and reveal whether they were sufficient to keep the world aligned with the 1.5°C goal. Looking at the upcoming meeting, Mr. Violetti focused on three crucial issues. First, on the new collective quantified goal, questions to be addressed included the amount for the new goal, the related contributor base and whether it would encompass loss and damage. Second, regarding article 6 of the Paris Agreement, Mr. Violetti noted that parties had to come together and agree on unsolved technical issues before a new era for carbon markets could start. Third, the operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage was on track to receive contributions and for projects to be submitted and funds to be disbursed. Mr. Violetti also spoke to the importance of adaptation, capacity-building, technology transfer, strengthening confidence and building trust to achieve successful outcomes.

65. In their subsequent interventions, members stressed how useful the common messages had been and how they had been integrated in their work and outreach activities, including during the current session of the General Assembly, in preparing for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and at the country level, through the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Ocean Conference, to be held in 2025, were seen as strategic opportunities to leverage and emphasize the common messages.

66. In the context of those communication and outreach efforts, and despite the alarming climate and environmental trends, it was suggested to equally provide positive narratives, empowering countries and individuals and identifying windows of opportunity for climate action. Members expressed concern over the increasing levels of misinformation and disinformation on climate change and attacks on scientists and journalists who worked in that field. Countering mis- and disinformation required behavioural changes on the user side but also engaging the technology companies operating digital platforms and the advertising industry to ensure the integrity of information spaces.

67. To accelerate climate action, members underlined the importance of partnerships and the meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, including non-State

actors and the private sector, in advancing technology and innovation and securing investments to achieve the Paris Agreement. It was stressed that only by ensuring an inclusive space for the participation of civil society actors and communities at the grass-roots level and by supporting environmental human rights defenders could the broad participation required for transformative changes be achieved. A role was seen for the United Nations system to come together in support of behavioural change and education, to help invest in building the next generation of climate activists.

68. Deliberating on the complex and interlinked impacts of climate change on people and planet, and referring to the agenda item on internal displacement, attention was drawn to loss and damage and the need to consider issues related to displacement and planned relocation, with many refugees and displaced people living in climate-vulnerable countries. It was noted that climate not only intersected with conflict, peace and security, but that conflicts greatly impacted the climate and the environment, with their emission-intensive fallouts often not being well reflected in national emission inventories. The next round of nationally determined contributions was seen as an opportunity to strengthen the alignment between the contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals to effectively harness synergies and help advance both the development and climate agendas, in particular in developing countries.

69. In response to the discussion, Mr. Violetti thanked members for the feedback received, concurring with the proposal to review the common messages in the light of the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session, and expressed his appreciation to the entire United Nations system for its support to the Conference of the Parties processes. The Chair, in closing, noted that there was support to review and update the common messages in 2025 ahead of the thirtieth session. She appreciated the Committee's ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for the common messages and encouraged United Nations system leaders and entities to continue to use and distribute them widely, in line with their mandate-specific messages.

Conclusion

70. **The Committee supported the proposal to revisit and, if necessary, update or adjust the United Nations system common messages ahead of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties.**

VI. Transnational organized crime

71. The Chair recalled the CEB first regular session of 2024, when the Board had acknowledged that transnational organized crime impacted the work of the entire United Nations system and that no country was left unaffected by the phenomenon. She added that transnational organized crime affected everyday life, undermined stability and hindered progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. She introduced the presenter, Chief of Staff to the Executive Director of UNODC, Jeremy Douglas, who would make the case for greater United Nations system coordination and policy coherence to address the issue, as outlined in the discussion note and terms of reference for a new HLCP task team that were before the Committee for its consideration and approval.

72. In opening his presentation, Mr. Douglas outlined key developments and common characteristics of transnational organized crime, including its increasingly regional and global nature, ability to innovate and adapt, and growing adoption of new technologies, including artificial intelligence, and investments in technological solutions. Transnational criminal networks had become more flexible and agile. They often used corruption and violence as part of doing business and disregarded human rights in the pursuit of their criminal objectives, with increasingly high profit margins.

While difficult to project, revenues from transnational organized crime had been estimated to be up to 15 per cent of global GDP, with an even higher percentage in some countries and subregions. While there were significant regional differences, transnational organized crime was characterized by increasing convergences and global connections across all regions. Moreover, transnational organized crime posed complex and multidimensional challenges to the work of the entire United Nations system, with harmful impacts on various sectors and mandates, from governance and the rule of law to peace and security, human rights, health, education, sustainable development and the environment. A common United Nations system approach was therefore needed to address the phenomenon.

73. Inviting HLCP members to consider the proposed terms of reference for a time-bound HLCP task team on transnational organized crime under the leadership of UNODC, Mr. Douglas explained that the overarching aim of a common approach was to bring the United Nations system together to address transnational organized crime by promoting policy coherence, facilitating inter-agency coordination and contributing to the capacity of the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams to provide policy advice and support to the Member States. In the first phase of its work, the task team would develop a conceptual framework that captured the multiple dimensions of transnational organized crime and State responses, produce an outline for the common approach and map existing workstreams and operational gaps. Building on those outputs, it would elaborate a common approach in a second phase of work. The process would be informed by field-based dialogues and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

74. In their deliberations, members were overwhelmingly supportive of the proposal and highlighted that the growing transnational crime phenomenon required a coordinated United Nations system response to aid international cooperation and collaboration. Members offered to contribute expertise in a range of areas, including customs, trade, taxation matters, cybersecurity, protection of civilians and vulnerable communities, the environment, governance, the rule of law, institutions and efforts to prevent violent extremism and maintain peace and security. Moreover, members volunteered their entities' anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing capabilities and analysis on the negative macroeconomic implications of illicit financial flows and money laundering. The need to forge linkages and avoid duplication with existing coordination efforts and mechanisms was highlighted.

75. Members emphasized peace and security aspects, such as the growing illicit trade in small arms and light weapons which, combined with growing military expenditure, heightened the risk of diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including those involved in transnational organized crime. In that context, synergies with the Programme of Action on Small Arms could be explored. Other members emphasized the intersection between transnational organized crime and conflict, particularly in the context of the forthcoming review of peace operations mandated by The Pact for the Future. Nuclear security and the misuse of technology and artificial intelligence could also be considered as part of a common approach to addressing the challenges of transnational organized crime.

76. Members also pointed to the human impact of transnational organized crime. For example, in Central America, by heightening risks and deepening vulnerabilities, violence and transnational organized crime were major drivers of displacement across the region. Stronger border controls in the region had led to increased arbitrary detentions and many hardships and made people on the move more vulnerable to human trafficking, smuggling and extortion. Partnerships and cooperation in the context of ongoing processes and mechanisms such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the United Nations Network on Migration, as well as with legislators such as parliamentarians, were suggested as useful in addressing

legal gaps and prioritizing specific geographies to address the root causes of transnational organized crime. Forecasting tools were also suggested as helpful in demonstrating the impact of interventions, for example on migration, that could build confidence and trust in national institutions. Several members highlighted that human rights were critical to a common approach, as victims of trafficking or smuggling were often punished twice for falling prey to transnational organized crime, in particular children who were at risk of being “double victims” when treated as a threat to national security after being coerced into criminal activity. The common approach needed to address root causes such as poverty and to adopt a prevention lens, including one that enhanced the role of education in addressing transnational organized crime and related activities.

77. Members also emphasized that transnational organized crime was a threat to sustainable development at large, resulting in high homicide rates and increased criminal activity such as trafficking in persons, drugs and arms, as well as cybercrime and environmental crimes. The impacts of transnational organized crime were so severe that some countries declared public emergencies, while others struggled to contain its effects on governance institutions and human suffering. Women and girls comprised a disproportionate number of trafficking victims and were extremely vulnerable to gender-based violence and other protection risks. In addition, crime, corruption and illicit financial flows compromised public financing and investments, making it an obstacle to development and development assistance. Enhanced analysis could lead to more tailored policy priorities to detect and deter transnational organized crime and eventually generate considerable savings in expenditures. In that context, the Fourth Financing for Development Conference, to be held in 2025, was seen as an opportunity to strengthen efforts to address illicit financial flows as part of enhancing financing for development. The role of freedom of expression and transnational collaborative journalism was noted as important in exposing crimes and corruption, and threats to journalists presented a serious challenge. The impacts of trafficking in cultural property and artefacts on the protection of cultural heritage were also highlighted. Illicit trade in timber, minerals and animals presented obstacles to environmental protection and sustainable agricultural food systems requiring a value chain approach, with a focus on both supply and demand sides.

78. In response to the feedback of the Committee, Mr. Douglas thanked members for their support, noting a shared sense of urgency and agreement on the need to pursue a broadened approach. He added that Member States were increasingly open to a broader cross-sectoral approach that went beyond public security and criminal justice responses to also address root causes and both supply and demand sides. He highlighted that, in that context, a common approach that reflected broader issues would also help to strategically position the United Nations system as an important partner in this field. He further emphasized that addressing and preventing transnational criminal activity remained an area of consensus among Member States and that cooperation had already been seen among United Nations entities and other stakeholders. Lastly, Mr. Douglas highlighted that foresight capacities would be an important part of the Organization’s contribution to Member States. UNODC looked forward to leading the task team to develop a draft common United Nations approach within a year.

79. The Chair thanked Mr. Douglas for his participation, noting the strong support expressed by members for the development of a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address transnational organized crime. She concluded the agenda item by confirming that the Committee had approved the terms of reference for the task team and encouraged all interested entities to join. She looked forward to the task team presenting a conceptual framework and outline for the common approach, along with a mapping of existing workstreams and operational gaps, at the

forty-ninth session of the Committee and a draft of the common approach for the Committee's consideration at its fiftieth session.

Conclusion

80. **The Committee committed to developing a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address transnational organized crime and approved the terms of reference for the time-bound task team on transnational organized crime to be established under the leadership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (see annex III).**

VII. Any other business

A. International data governance

81. The Chair recalled that the revised draft of the proposed normative foundations for international data governance: goals and principles had been prepared by the HLCP working group on international data governance at the request of HLCP at its forty-sixth session. Intended as a United Nations system contribution to the advancement of international data governance, the document had been approved by HLCP through virtual review on a no-objection basis and circulated as final on 23 September 2024.

Conclusion

82. **The Committee acknowledged the approval of the proposed normative foundations for international data governance: goals and principles for onward transmission to CEB for endorsement.**

B. Summary of information items

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

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

Conclusion

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

VIII. Dates and location of the forty-ninth session of the Committee

86. It was proposed that the forty-ninth session of the Committee be held in New York on 1 and 2 April 2025.

87. The Chair informed the Committee that the International Atomic Energy Agency had generously offered to host the fiftieth session of the Committee at its headquarters in Vienna.

88. The Chair also informed the Committee that UNEP had offered to host the Committee in Nairobi for its fifty-second session.

Conclusion

89. The Committee approved the dates and location of its forty-ninth session: 1 and 2 April 2025 in New York.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Stocktaking and scoping discussion in follow-up to the Summit of the Future
2. Use and governance of artificial intelligence and related frontier technologies
3. Promoting system-wide coherence on internal displacement
4. Climate change: United Nations system contribution to the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
5. Transnational organized crime
6. Any other business
7. Dates and location of the forty-ninth session of the Committee

Annex II

List of participants

Chair: Ms. Inger Andersen (United Nations Environment Programme)

Acting Secretary: Ms. Xenia von Lilien (High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination)

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Beth Crawford
International Atomic Energy Agency	Nuno Luzio
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Ronald Hartman
International Labour Organization	Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon
International Maritime Organization	Galuh Rarasanti
International Monetary Fund	Robert Powell
International Organization for Migration	Ugochi Daniels
	Marie McAuliffe
International Telecommunication Union	Tomas Lamanauskas (Co-Chair, Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence)
	Ursula Wynhoven
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Angeli Achrekar
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Sajjad Malik
United Nations	
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Lotta Tahtinen
Department of Global Communications	Maher Nasser
Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Peacebuilding Support Office	Awa Dabo
Development Coordination Office	Roberto Valent
Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Michelle Gyles-McDonnough
	Michèle Griffin
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Quynh Tran
Office for Disarmament Affairs	Gizem Sucuoglu
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Peggy Hicks
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	Paola Albrito

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Fedor Klimchuk Jeremy Douglas Angela Me
United Nations Children's Fund	George Laryea-Adjei Jasmina Byrne
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Anu Peltola
United Nations Development Programme	Marcos Neto
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Gabriela Ramos (Co-Chair, Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence) Zazie Schafer
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	Aparna Mehrotra
United Nations Environment Programme	Ligia Noronha Isabella Marras
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat	Daniele Violetti
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Denis Ulin
United Nations Office for Project Services	Jakob Tuborgh
United Nations Population Fund	Diene Keita
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Natalie Boucly
United Nations University	Catharina Nickel
Universal Postal Union	Elise Servat
World Bank Group	Farhad Peikar
World Food Programme	Valerie Guarnieri
World Intellectual Property Organization	Edward Kwakwa
World Meteorological Organization	Roberta Boscolo
World Tourism Organization	Zoritsa Urosevic

Guests

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
IE University (Instituto de Empresa)	Manuel Muñiz
Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement	Robert Piper
	Rekha Menon

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination secretariat

Maaïke Jansen

Remo Lalli

Cheryl Stafford

Laura Ribeiro Rodrigues Pereira

Florian Wintermeyer

Laurent Mottier

Fabienne Fon Sing

Annex III

Terms of reference for the High-level Committee on Programmes task team on transnational organized crime

1. The time-bound task team will operate within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCPP) under the leadership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Aims and objectives

2. The overarching aims of bringing the United Nations system together to coherently address transnational organized crime through a common approach are to enhance early warning and analysis; reduce risks and vulnerabilities; strengthen technical capacities and criminal justice systems to promote cross-border collaboration and improved information and data-sharing; amplify efforts to protect people and their rights, including through prevention and assistance to victims; and promote regional and national United Nations system planning as well as cooperation by building upon agreed frameworks and standards, partnering with governments, the private sector and civil society, optimizing the use of donor resources and leveraging the convening power and expertise of the United Nations system.

3. To achieve these aims, the following objectives will be pursued:

(a) Promote policy coherence and aid the United Nations system leadership in advocating for and facilitating international cooperation and evidence-based responses to prevent and address transnational organized crime that are rooted in respect for human rights and the rule of law;

(b) Facilitate inter-agency coordination, leverage data and analytical capacities, reduce duplication, optimize resource mobilization and maximize impact, including by leveraging existing relevant United Nations system work, processes and initiatives related to transnational organized crime;

(c) Contribute to the capacity of the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams as well as missions to provide integrated, data-driven policy advice and support to Member States that speak to national and regional needs and priorities, and increase buy-in.

Outputs

4. The following outputs are foreseen:

(a) The first phase of work will establish some key building blocks to inform the common approach. The task team will develop a conceptual framework capturing the multiple dimensions of transnational organized crime, as well as State responses, and produce an outline for the common approach;

(b) The task team, through the global and field processes, will further undertake a mapping of existing workstreams and operational gaps, which will also identify good practices and effective responses, examples of inter-agency cooperation and possibilities for consolidating and rationalizing mechanisms;

(c) Building on the above outputs, in the second phase of work, the task team will elaborate a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address

transnational organized crime, to be outlined in a succinct document potentially including:

- (i) A set of recommendations for the United Nations system in support of Member States and other stakeholders, including multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector, aligned with intergovernmental processes and United Nations norms and standards and aimed at supporting strategic responses, international cooperation and foresight addressing transnational organized crime;
- (ii) Guidance on evidence-based measures and metrics to prevent and address transnational organized crime, addressing the sequencing of interventions, from short-term frontline responses and capacity-building to medium- and longer-term efforts to strengthen prevention and build resilience;
- (iii) Examples of relevant United Nations programmes and initiatives, with an emphasis on existing inter-agency workstreams that could be strengthened or integrated to use system resources and expertise more effectively;
- (iv) A proposal to monitor and report system efforts to address transnational organized crime through the common approach, with the aim of sustaining cooperation and continuously improving efforts;
- (v) In the context of the newly established International Day for the Prevention of and Fight Against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime (15 November), joint agreed messaging on transnational organized crime, to be facilitated by UNODC as custodian of the day, and proposals for inter-agency collaboration on themes and activities.

5. The process will further be informed by a complementary workstream led by UNODC outside of the context of the HLCP task team (with other entities invited and encouraged to contribute) involving a series of dialogues in the field that are being initiated in parallel and that will serve to capture field-based insights on local, national and regional manifestations of transnational organized crime and their impacts, as well as on Member State capacities, responses, challenges and policy needs. Data, analysis and recommendations resulting from the dialogues will be gathered by UNODC and reported to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and shared with the HLCP task team.

Membership and working methods

6. The task team is open to all interested HLCP member entities. Each entity is invited to appoint primary and secondary focal points, who will regularly and actively participate in exchanges and meetings, to be convened by UNODC, and contribute to the delivery of the agreed outputs.

7. The work of the task team is time-bound and envisaged to conclude upon producing the agreed outputs. The establishment of a standing coordination mechanism, communities of practice, peer-to-peer exchanges or other platform(s) outside of HLCP could be considered if deemed useful.

8. As a priority, the process will seek to leverage existing coordination mechanisms and benefit from their insights, including, inter alia, decisions of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee addressing small arms and light weapons as well as trafficking in all its forms; the United Nations system common positions on drug policy, incarceration and corruption; and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. It will further bear in mind the planned

Executive Committee agenda item on the impact of organized crime on peace and security, and the regional monthly review on Ecuador.

9. Moreover, the process could benefit from engagement with relevant stakeholders, including from academia, the private sector and civil society, and UNODC will convene a balanced (in terms of geography, gender and expertise) group of experts to provide input to the work of the task team.

Timeline

10. HLCP forty-eighth session on 7 October 2024: Commitment by HLCP to develop a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address transnational organized crime. Terms of reference for the time-bound task team on transnational organized crime to be established under the leadership of UNODC approved. Further to approval, UNODC to subsequently convene the task team.

11. HLCP forty-ninth session: The proposed conceptual framework will be presented along with the mapping and an outline for the common approach for consideration by HLCP.

12. HLCP fiftieth session: Following approval of the conceptual framework and outline, the task team will continue its work to develop the common approach, to be presented for consideration by HLCP, and, if approved, transmitted for endorsement by CEB.
