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I. Introduction and summary

1. The year 2022 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption, on 11 December 1972, of General Assembly resolution 2951 (XXVII), in which the Assembly decided to establish an international university under the auspices of the United Nations to be known as the United Nations University. It was less than three years later, in September 1975, that the United Nations University (UNU) launched operations from the UNU Centre in Tokyo. Since then, UNU has expanded to become a global network of research and training institutes in 12 countries.

2. UNU has long been recognized as a pioneer in developing knowledge and expertise that cross traditional scientific boundaries, reflecting the intertwined nature of global systems and the pressing problems of human survival, development and welfare. The University has also contributed to generating innovative research methodologies, developing better ways to measure sustainable development and assess human and environmental well-being, disseminating evidence-based knowledge and supporting individual and organizational capacity development within the global South.

3. Its unique dual identity as an autonomous research and training institution¹ and a trusted knowledge partner within the United Nations system enables UNU to serve as a bridge linking global research communities and international policymaking communities. UNU experts conduct interdisciplinary research, translate the findings into evidence-based policy recommendations and apprise policymakers and others who can drive positive change of their activities. The University provides its researchers and academic partners with insight into the research needs of the United Nations and offers them the opportunity to help shape policymaking.

4. The UNU research programme encompasses a wide range of issues within three broad thematic clusters: peace and security; social change and economic development; and environment, climate and energy. Because UNU operates as a global network of institutes, each focused on a specific set of topics, the University's work spans many geographies across the globe, intersects with a multitude of international and regional policy spaces and integrates a diverse range of academic disciplines.

5. Rather than attempt to provide an exhaustive inventory of the operations and accomplishments of the University in 2022, the present report highlights selected activities and achievements which demonstrate the thematic and geographical scope of the work of UNU while attesting to the progress of the University towards achieving the main objectives set out in the UNU-wide Strategic Plan 2020–2024. Section II introduces the UNU system and offers a brief survey of institutional developments in 2022. Sections III, IV, and V highlight, respectively, UNU research, capacity development and knowledge delivery activities in 2022.

II. The global United Nations University system: an overview

A. Structure and activities

6. UNU operates as a network of institutes located in 12 countries, each of which has a specific focus as mandated by its statute and host country agreement. The global UNU system is coordinated by the UNU Centre, which consists of a headquarters unit

¹ The charter of the United Nations University grants UNU “autonomy within the framework of the United Nations” as well as “the academic freedom required for the achievement of its objectives” (art. II (1)).

in Tokyo, the UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe (UNU-VIE), located in Bonn, and an administrative services unit in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

7. The UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC), located in Caracas, promotes the use of biotechnology for sustainable development. The easing of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic-related travel restrictions enabled the Programme for Biotechnology to resume academic activities and regional research visits. The Programme continued to host a series of biotechnology webinars and launched a weekly newsletter.

8. The UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), located in New York, generates innovative solutions to global public policy challenges, contributes to policy debates at the United Nations and represents the UNU system at United Nations Headquarters. In 2022, the Centre for Policy Research provided high-level briefings to national Governments and entities of the United Nations system, including the Security Council; engaged with diverse national, regional and international partners in the application of its research findings; and organized high-level virtual and in-person events on a diversity of subjects. The Centre continued to develop new projects, including a thematic review on human rights and peacebuilding, and to expand its relationship with the Development Coordination Office. In June 2022, the Centre for Policy Research opened a satellite office in Geneva to serve as a bridge between the policy ecosystems in Geneva and New York.

9. The Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, located in Bruges, Belgium, focuses on issues of governance, cooperation and intra- and interregional integration. In 2022, the Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies signed a new agreement with the Government of Flanders, Ghent University and Vrije Universiteit Brussel under which the Institute was ensured a further five years of funding. Collaboration with entities of the United Nations system (in particular the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Organization for Migration and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat) remained strong. The Institute has refined its research programme to align it with real-world developments through, for example, merging its work on climate and health so as to create a new nature, climate and health cluster. In 2022, the Regional Integration Knowledge System platform and the *SDG Monitor* were the Institute's flagship products.

10. The UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV), located in Guimarães, Portugal, works at the intersection of governance, technology and development. During 2022, the Operating Unit widened its visibility by establishing new and reinforcing existing collaborations with United Nations system organizations, including the International Labour Organization, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe), as well as, inter alia, diverse government and public institutions, research and academic entities and international organizations. The Unit reinforced its academic, advisory and consultancy activities within the scope of digital governance, developing and delivering capacity- building programmes for policymakers, decision makers, and public officials.

11. The UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), located in Bonn, addresses the challenges of global environmental change, with a focus on environmentally driven vulnerability and the interplay between ecological and societal factors. In 2022, the Institute witnessed a steady increase in its visibility, thanks in part to the publication of the second edition of its flagship report entitled

Interconnected Disaster Risks as well as its contributions to several high-level international policy events, such as the session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the World Urban Forum. The Institute further cultivated and strengthened its local and global partnerships, including partnerships with United Nations system organizations such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization.

12. The UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES), located in Dresden, Germany, contributes to the sustainable use and integrated management of environmental resources, particularly water, soil and waste. In 2022, the Institute for Integrated Management launched a new Resource Nexus Analytics, Informatics and Data (AID) Research Programme to facilitate regional and global collaborative efforts in tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate, nature and pollution. With this new programme, the Institute is becoming a global hub for resource nexus aid. In the context of the coal phase-out/energy transition in Germany, the Institute opened a branch office in Weißwasser, which will serve as a model for further institutions engaged in Sustainable Development Goals-related research. Further, the Institute is collaborating with the Government of Germany on a scoping study entailing analysis of the environmental legacies of the “carbon age” and development of perspectives on the energy transition in the coal regions of target countries in the global South.

13. The UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), located in Tokyo, supports efforts to achieve a more sustainable future, with a focus on transformations toward sustainable societies, natural capital and biodiversity, and global change and resilience. The Institute made important contributions to international policy processes for, inter alia, sustainable development, education, biodiversity, climate change and water. The Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability organized side events at the high-level political forum on sustainable development; co-organized and hosted the third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held at UNU in Tokyo; organized a side event at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; provided expert inputs for the Committee of Experts on Public Administration; supported the Transforming Education Summit; and provided expertise and evidence-based inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Institute projects continued to strengthen leadership at the local level in Asia as well as mobilize efforts by universities in Japan towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Institute completed a research project on water for sustainable development and conducted joint research with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on climate change displacement and the right to education in the Asia-Pacific region.

14. The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), located in Kuala Lumpur, advances evidence-based policy on key health issues, with a focus on gender mainstreaming in health systems and supporting decision makers in the global South. Throughout the year, the International Institute consolidated its position in global health and contributed to global health policymaking through collaborations with high-level global development entities, including the Group of 20 and the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (SDG3 Global Action Plan). The Institute strengthened its relationships with the health system of Malaysia and currently has partnerships with 23 organizations across the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP, global academia, national Governments and knowledge generation/policy organizations and networks. Institute research systematically emphasizes low- and middle-income country perspectives and equity. Through initiatives such as the Gender and Health Hub, the Institute has mobilized a broad community of academics, civil society and policymakers, particularly from the global South.

15. The UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), located in Accra, provides cutting-edge knowledge to enable sustainable responses to the natural resources management challenges confronted by Africa. The Institute for Natural Resources continued to work towards developing new ideas and foresight analysis-based research. Its flagship programme on stranded assets, which has matured into a research theme of relevance to global policymakers in the climate change and green economy space, was expanded to include marginalized groups and economic implications for delivering inclusive solutions which place just transitions at their centre. Institute research has delivered a smooth segue into the larger vision of a research facility driven by and focused on the global South and Africa in particular and aiming towards creating endogenous solutions and funding research on carbon transitions.

16. The Institute for Water, Environment and Health, located in Hamilton, Ontario, analyses and synthesizes existing knowledge on water challenges, identifies emerging policy issues and develops scalable solutions. In 2022, Institute research focused on advancing gender equality for effective water management and managing water- and climate-related risks for improved water security. The Institute, for example, initiated global assessments of the actual numbers of women and their roles in various components of the water sector and global assessments of impacts on water quality disaggregated by gender. The Institute also made significant progress in elucidating the current global status of antimicrobial resistance as it relates to water and published a first-ever country-focused comprehensive quantitative assessment of water security in Africa. With the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Institute for Water, Environment and Health remains co-lead of the UN-Water Task Force on Water Action Decade Implementation (2018–2028) and contributed significantly to preparations for the upcoming high-level Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028.

17. The United Nations University Institute in Macao, China, conducts policy-relevant research on digital technologies and the Sustainable Development Goals to support evidence-based, knowledge-driven and participatory decision-making. The research portfolio of the Institute is built around the concept of “collective (human and machine) intelligence” and a “system thinking” perspective has been adopted in this regard. In 2022, the Institute launched a blog series on “collective intelligence and sustainable development”. The Institute was commissioned by ITU to explore, from a gender angle, artificial intelligence and digital policy development in South-East Asia and in collaboration with UN-Women, it is examining the role of artificial intelligence in peace and conflict. The United Nations University Institute in Macao, China, works closely with United Nations system partners, including the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, ITU, UN-Women, the United Nations System Staff College, WHO and the United Nations country team in China to support research and capacity-building activities on digital technologies and the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. The United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), located in Maastricht, Netherlands, explores the social, political and economic factors that drive technological innovation. As part of an inward-facing effort to develop the structures

needed to ensure successful delivery of its strategic plan, in 2022, the Institute merged with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance to form a single entity, the Institute for Societal Policy and Innovation Research (INSPIRE), within Maastricht University. Among outward-looking activities and initiatives, the Institute further developed its research agenda on comprehensive innovation for sustainable development, which encompasses climate change and inequality policy, new technologies to ensure inclusive societies, an integrated approach to the energy transition, and climate-related risks and vulnerabilities in refugee camps. The Research Institute on Innovation and Technology continues to support a range of United Nations partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP) and associated policy processes, and to lead in developing flagship reports of the European Commission such as the *European Innovation Scoreboard*.

19. The World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), located in Helsinki, focuses on the interlinked development challenges of transforming economies, States and societies, with an emphasis on research-into-use processes. With its five-year work programme, centred on transforming economies, States and societies, coming to an end in 2023, in 2022, the World Institute focused on concluding a range of research projects and synthesizing the relevant research findings and policy recommendations. At the WIDER Development Conference on reducing inequality, the work of the Institute on transforming societies was discussed and debated. The Institute published a series of flagship outputs on development issues, including a volume on the “developer’s dilemma”, which lays out the different pathways to structural transformation and explores how those pathways shape development in specific country contexts. In its role as a trusted partner and think tank for Governments in the global South, the World Institute launched the second phase of its well-established inclusive growth programme, which is centred on the Institute’s partnership with the National Treasury of South Africa, and strengthened partnerships with other revenue authorities of sub-Saharan Africa.

B. Governance and leadership

20. The UNU Council oversees the affairs of the global UNU system. The 16-member Council comprises 12 appointed members,² the Rector of UNU and 3 ex officio members, namely, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director General of UNESCO, and the Executive Director of United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The responsibilities of the Council include approval of the UNU work programme and budget and adoption of University-wide statutes and policies.

21. The Council met twice in 2022, for its seventy-seventh session, held in Helsinki on 30 and 31 May, and its seventy-eighth session, held in Paris on 1 and 2 December. At the seventy-seventh session, UNU bid farewell to six individuals whose term as Council members had concluded and welcomed a cohort of six newly appointed members. A list of all Council members who served in 2022 is contained in the annex to this report.

22. The UNU Rectorate provides management direction for and coordinates activities within the global UNU system. The chief academic and administrative officer of UNU is the Rector, who holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General. He is assisted by two Vice-Rectors, one in Tokyo and one in Bonn, and supported by the Tokyo-based Office of the Rector. The international competitive recruitment process for the next Rector was completed in 2022 and on 25 July the Secretary-General

² These UNU Council members, who serve six-year terms, are appointed jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director General of UNESCO.

announced the appointment of Tshilidzi Marwala (South Africa) as the seventh Rector of UNU, from March 2023. The Secretary-General thanked David M. Malone (Canada), who would complete his second and final term as Rector in February 2023, for his excellent leadership of the University.

23. The UNU Administration is responsible for development of unified standards, financial and treasury system management and budget reporting to the Council and provides human resources, financial and procurement services to the global UNU system.

24. Each UNU institute is headed by a Director, who reports to the Rector. Directors have oversight of their institute's budget, human resources and research and programme development. Institute directors meet annually at a gathering referred to as the Conference of Directors, as well as periodically via an "all directors virtual call" to discuss matters of inter-institute policy and coordination.

25. Each UNU institute benefits from the guidance of an advisory board or committee. This body typically comprises three or more appointed members in addition to the Rector and institute director. In line with the UNU Strategic Plan 2020-2024, advisory boards have taken an increasingly active role in advising UNU institutes on thematic programming and management, including on issues of quality assurance and fundraising.

26. Bodies of the United Nations system that play a UNU governance role include the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

C. Human and financial resources

Personnel

27. UNU is committed to ensuring that its workplace culture is tolerant of racial, cultural, sexual and other differences; is gender-balanced; supports the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities; and is free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and abuse. In 2022, UNU promulgated a new disability inclusion policy, in line with the UNU Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

28. United Nations University personnel include a mix of staff in the Professional and higher categories and the General Service and related categories who are appointed in accordance with the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, as well as visiting scholars, research associates, postdoctoral fellows, administrative and academic services personnel and specialized consultants. As of year-end 2022, the global UNU system had a personnel complement of 746, of whom 54 per cent were women and 43 per cent were nationals of developing countries. UNU personnel comprised 85 staff members in the Professional and higher categories, 57 staff members in the General Service and related categories and 604 persons employed under either a personnel service agreement or a consultancy contract.

Finances

29. UNU receives no funds from the regular budget of the United Nations and is funded entirely through voluntary contributions in the form of institutional funding, comprising primarily recurring host country contributions and investment income derived from the United Nations University Endowment Fund, and other contributions, from Member States, foundations, agencies, international organizations and other sources, that are designated for specific research projects.

30. The approved UNU budget for the biennium 2022–2023 is US\$ 127.0 million: US\$ 50.3 million for staffing and personnel costs, US\$ 45.0 for specific project expenses, US\$ 19.5 million for general expenses and US\$ 12.2 million for academic programme costs.

31. The financing for these expenditures is expected to be derived from project fundraising (US\$ 45.0 million), UNU Endowment Fund income (US\$ 34.1 million), institutional fundraising (US\$ 28.8 million), cumulative surplus carried forward (US\$ 11.7 million) cost recovery (US\$ 3.8 million) and other income (US\$ 3.6 million).

III. Research: generating policy-relevant, solution-focused knowledge

32. UNU conducts objective, evidence-based research which sheds new light on important questions to help policymakers and practitioners worldwide view complex issues from fresh, critical perspectives and take effective action. An important goal, supported by the UNU Strategic Plan 2020–2024, is to pursue policy-relevant programming and incorporate scientific expertise into policymaking, decision-making and the broader public debate.

33. UNU works in partnership with a wide range of entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Secretariat, agencies, programmes, commissions, funds and convention secretariats. The University maintains hundreds of active formal agreements and informal collaborations with universities, research institutes and think tanks, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, governmental units, foundations and private entities worldwide and thereby involves larger networks of specialists and researchers in its work.

34. As an entity of the United Nations system, the University has privileged access to the evolving policy needs of the United Nations and its Member States, including through participation and as represented by the UNU Rector in the meetings of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. UNU is thus able to share evolving priorities and concerns with academic and research communities worldwide which would otherwise have limited awareness of the needs of the United Nations system and to then work with them to develop relevant knowledge and policy solutions.

35. While there has always been significant demand for evidence-based research within the United Nations system to inform policymaking, considerable obstacles have often been associated with the uptake of such research. UNU helps to bridge this chronic gap between research and policy in three ways.

36. Indirect analytical influence, that is to say, generating evidence and ideas that help shape discourse and debate, is the most common means through which UNU influences policy processes. The University provides evidence-driven input to policy debates on issues involving new or interdisciplinary scientific inquiry such as development economics, modern slavery and the integrated management of soil, water and waste.

37. Direct engagement is another means by which UNU is able to exert an influence on policy. The “blue” identity of the University provides other actors within the United Nations system with a level of comfort and a level of trust that may not be extended to other scientists and researchers. UNU regularly works with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, various bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and other entities of the United Nations system by taking on sometimes politically sensitive convening and policy-related research roles and serves as a member of

inter-agency networks such as those on water, migration, disaster risk reduction, innovation, economics and the environment.

38. Through collaborative knowledge generation in partnership with other entities of the United Nations system, UNU helps those entities fill knowledge gaps that they have identified with specifically tailored policy-relevant outputs. In 2022, these partnerships encompassed such issues as disaster risk and climate change, gender and health, e-governance, and conflict and climate security.

39. At the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The holistic approach of the UNU research programme both enriches the value of that research and underscores the ability of the University to integrate expertise and knowledge across multiple disciplines so as to not only address the Goals individually as many research organizations do but also further illuminate their interdependencies and interconnections.

40. The present section briefly introduces a small number of the approximately 200 projects³ undertaken by UNU in 2022 within the context of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their interrelationships. It utilizes a common grouping of the Goals known as the five Ps, namely, people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, which roughly corresponds to the three broad thematic clusters of the work of UNU (social change and economic development; environment, climate and energy; and peace and security).

A. People

41. Five of the Sustainable Development Goals (1. No poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 3. Good health and well-being; 4. Quality education; and 5. Gender equality), which seek to ensure that everyone everywhere, now and in the future, can live a healthy, constructive life, free from want, are thus strongly interlinked. Selected examples of UNU research projects that contribute to achieving the five people-focused Goals are described below.

42. The UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance is working with the Government of China and other partners on constructing a national strategy and road map for improving the institutional capacity of China to ensure universal social protection coverage. Several global good practice case studies have been conducted with a mapping of trends and lessons for China.

43. The UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability leads an initiative for mobilizing efforts by 32 Japanese universities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative advances discussion on evaluating the impact of university and corporate efforts in the context of sustainable global development.

44. The Gender and Health Policy Hub coordinated by the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health distils knowledge on what has worked with respect to integrating gender in health and where, why, and how across five United Nations organizations. The hub also amplifies the experience and expertise of global South actors, researchers and institutions in mainstream discourse of gender and global health.

45. The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health co-curated and facilitated a series of structured dialogues on the need to decolonize global health and shift power among stakeholders. The effort has led to the formation

³ Many of the projects described in the present document were undertaken in collaboration with, or funded by, multiple stakeholders who, because of space limitations, are not specifically named herein.

of an explicit institute programme of work on conceptualizing the intersecting dimensions of colonialism and power asymmetry as they pertain to global health.

46. The United Nations University Institute in Macao, China, is participating in a project whose aim is to develop a better understanding of the current state of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence policy in South-East Asia and thereby provide a framework for informing the development of gender-sensitive policies.

47. A project of the United Nations University Institute in Macao, China, on “citizen science” is focused on studying how and to what extent collective intelligence capabilities and real-time data-driven measures can help prepare for and respond to a pandemic.

48. The United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology continues to collaborate with WFP on evaluating and monitoring WFP activities in refugee settlements in Kenya, including the ability of WFP to maintain stable levels of food security despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Prosperity

49. Building on the above-mentioned people-centric Sustainable Development Goals are five Goals, namely, 7. Affordable and clean energy, 8. Decent work and economic growth, 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 10. Reduced inequality and 11. Sustainable cities and communities, that focus on social prosperity and stability. Many UNU projects address and expand on these prosperity-focused Goals.

50. The United Nations University Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean contributes to the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries through training and research activities oriented towards training young researchers to help resolve pertinent problems of the region through biotechnology.

51. The Resource Nexus Analytics, Informatics and Data (AID) Research Programme of the UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources facilitates the sustainable management of water, soil, waste, energy and geo-resources by Governments, businesses and societies through data exchange, capacity-building and data extraction.

52. The UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance analysed new solutions regarding the evolution of mission-critical communication into mission-critical intelligence for use by security forces and emergency services responders in large metropolitan areas.

53. The UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance is engaged in exploring the benefits and challenges arising from the use of blockchain technology to connect social programmes and agencies, with a focus on the conditions required to implement blockchain technology in the context of social security.

54. The UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security is supporting cities in the systemic transformation of their social, technological and political structures into more sustainable systems through a project whose aim is to catalyse innovative urban partnerships. The project has initiated urban labs in five Latin American cities.

55. The UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security is integrating ecosystem-based approaches into flood risk management for adaptive and sustainable urban development in central Viet Nam.

56. The UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa is developing strategies for addressing energy shortages by bolstering adaptation and resilience and stimulating energy entrepreneurship to ensure just transitions in the informal sector.
57. The UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa and the UNU Centre for Policy Research collaborated on a project designed to clarify opportunities for financial sector engagement at the nexus of modern slavery and human trafficking and natural resources (in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis) in Ghana's cocoa and artisanal small-scale gold mining sectors.
58. The United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology collaborated on a project that is increasing understanding of how science, technology and innovation are contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in low- and middle-income countries.
59. The United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology supported the presidency of Indonesia in the Group of 20 by analysing developments and trends in current global digital skills and their implications for society and the economy. The effort facilitated the development of policies and programmatic interventions to foster digital transformation in the post-pandemic workforce.
60. The UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe co-implemented a project for building databases of stakeholders in green innovation and entrepreneurship on the African continent and of start-ups in the green sectors, with the aim of empowering youth and women green entrepreneurs.
61. The World Institute for Development Economics Research collaborates with key departments of the Government of South Africa in filling crucial knowledge gaps and supporting governmental formulation of policies to address key challenges and promote inclusive economic development. In 2022, the Towards Inclusive Economic Development programme of the World Institute embarked on its second phase, which places strong emphasis on providing evidence for the economic reform projects undertaken by the Government of South Africa.

C. Planet

62. A further five Sustainable Development Goals, namely, 6. Clean water and sanitation; 12. Responsible consumption and production; 13. Climate action; 14. Life below water; and 15. Life on land, seek to reduce the impact of human activity on the Earth's finite resources and its irreplaceable plant and animal life. Some of the UNU projects that address issues within this planet-focused cluster of Goals are described below.
63. The Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies is a main partner in the collaborative Climate Resilience Initiative. The Institute's researchers are involved in two work packages: individual and community preparedness and response, and multilevel governance. In 2022, the Institute organized two significant informational events: one on flood knowledge and the other on the impacts of climate change on mental health.
64. The UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security is a prominent partner in a project promoting multi-actor partnerships for climate and disaster risk financing and preparedness within the context of the InsuResilience Global Partnership. The aim is to strengthen technical understanding of finance and insurance solutions and to spur more effective collaboration between diverse stakeholders.

65. As part of a project aimed at assessing the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of policy options for transitioning to a sustainable low-carbon future, the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security is helping to “humanize” integrated assessment models so that they properly represent human development indicators such as inequality, health, well-being and migration.

66. The UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources is conducting a capacity diagnosis and developing evidence-based recommendations from a resource nexus perspective for dealing with the legacies of coal mining. The aim is to help relevant stakeholders in the coal sectors of four countries of the global South achieve sustainable transformation.

67. The UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability hosts the secretariat of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative. Through the International Partnership and other projects, the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability continues to advance human-environment solutions for transformational change towards living in harmony with nature.

68. A project of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability explored the complex links between water and the economy. The project, which focused on developing countries in Asia, provided insights and approaches to assessing and improving interlinkages in environmental and economic policies. One output was a tool that helps policymakers understand how changes in one sector might impact production, water consumption and pollution loads in other sectors.

69. The UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa is evaluating the socioeconomic risks that African States may incur as a result of asset stranding caused by policy actions taken to implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To close out the project, the Institute is developing an economic analysis and predictions to help Governments of Africa assess and manage the risk associated with stranded assets, avert future losses and advance green transition planning.

70. The Institute for Water, Environment and Health is identifying policy-oriented solutions to strengthen society’s resilience to water and climate risks and enhance overall global water security. A 2022 report summarized the results of a project to evaluate the water security of 54 African countries in terms of 10 indicator-related numerical measures under Sustainable Development Goal 6. A project entailing a global assessment of water storage losses due to sedimentation of large reservoirs was completed and work has started on identifying and evaluating water-related threats to global megacities.

71. The Institute for Water, Environment and Health is examining and promoting a range of unconventional water resources (beyond rain and river flow) and technologies that can be combined to provide new water sources for human consumption and agricultural production systems in water-scarce areas.

D. Peace

72. Sustainable development is not possible without peace and justice for all, which are in turn dependent on effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions. Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) seeks to promote peaceful societies at national levels and cooperation at the international level. The following UNU projects are particularly relevant to this Goal.

73. An initiative of the UNU Centre for Policy Research aims towards filling the knowledge gap associated with the questions how and why groups and individuals exit armed conflicts and which interventions can be most effective at encouraging

transitions away from the battlefield and disrupting cycles of violence. In 2022, this initiative demonstrated impacts across Western Asia, Africa and Latin America.

74. The Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking initiative, for which the UNU Centre for Policy Research serves as secretariat, is a multi-stakeholder effort to mobilize the financial sector in the fight against modern slavery. In 2022, this initiative contributed to several high-level United Nations system-hosted meetings and helped organize a high-level political forum on child labour within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

75. The UNU Centre for Policy Research undertook a thematic review of climate-security and peacebuilding to identify best practices and lessons learned from, and areas for programming improvement of, the multilateral system's response to climate-security challenges. Positive response to the completed review has spawned a further review to examine how the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund can integrate human rights in its work and operationalize the Secretary-General's "Call to action for human rights".

76. The World Institute for Development Economics Research is studying the institutional legacies of violent conflict, in particular how the institutional dynamics that develop during violent conflicts shape subsequent State-building and economic development trajectories. The project seeks to illuminate how and why violent conflicts persist, how and why their legacies endure across time and what can be done to reduce the risk and impact of violence.

77. The World Institute for Development Economics Research is elucidating the connections between clientelist politics, that is to say, delivery of material goods in return for electoral support, and economic development. Special emphasis is placed on the associations subsisting between clientelism and poverty, State capacity, electoral politics and policymaking by elected leaders. Research is ongoing in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

E. Partnerships

78. Because the Sustainable Development Goals represent a shared global call to action to achieve equitable and universal sustainable development, collaboration and mutual support among Governments at all levels, the private sector and civil society are a necessary foundation for such achievements. Goal 17 (Partnerships for the goals) seeks to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the collaborative effort. With expertise across the full range of the Sustainable Development Goals and active partnerships across all sectors, UNU facilitates knowledge dissemination and convenes a diverse range of development stakeholders.

79. The UNU Centre for Policy Research acted as secretariat for the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, which is mandated to help improve global governance and enhance the collective response to several critical global threats. The Centre, which provides critical strategic, research and logistic support, is helping to draft a report of the Board, including recommendations for the Summit of the Future, which will be submitted to the Secretary-General in April 2023. The UNU Centre for Policy Research has brought together over 500 experts to support the Board's work and in 2022 organized several events with leading research centres to explore global governance reforms.

80. The *SDG Monitor*, co-developed by the Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, helps Flemish municipalities and stakeholders evaluate the areas in which they are doing well and those in which they are underperforming in terms of tackling individual Goals and judge what challenges lie ahead. The 2022 *SDG*

Monitor incorporated information on 243 indicators that track Sustainable Development Goal outcomes and featured a case study of the city of Bruges.

81. The UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources has launched a programme that enables development-oriented postgraduate students from the global South to pursue doctoral studies on sustainability transformations under the supervision of academic experts. The focus is on interlinkages between environmental resources and synergies and trade-offs in their management, with an emphasis on the Institute's resource nexus concept.

82. The Governance for Sustainable Development project of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability explores the synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action, with a focus on identifying good practices and success factors. In 2022, the Institute co-organized an official side event of the high-level political forum on sustainable development at which the issue of how to close critical gaps between these two agendas was discussed; co-organized and hosted the third major global conference on Strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at UNU in Tokyo; and shared and further developed the conference outcomes through side events at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

83. The project of the World Institute for Development Economics Research on building up efficient and fair tax systems helps countries of the global South to develop the institutional and individual capacity of their national tax administrators through technical cooperation and research co-creation and by building national and international communities of practice around the use of administrative tax data. The project is currently working in partnership with the revenue authorities of four African countries.

IV. Capacity development: engaging with the global South

84. UNU is mandated by its charter to support "the continuing growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities" (art. I (6)), particularly in the global South, and to help researchers and academics of developing countries access and participate in global knowledge circuits and policy processes.

85. The institutes of the global UNU system consider in their planning specifically how their work can contribute to strengthening the academic and scientific capacities of developing countries. This includes undertaking research that focuses on the needs and concerns of developing countries; collaborating with Governments, research institutions and individual researchers and scholars based in the global South; employing nationals of developing countries; and giving students from the global South opportunities to enrol in UNU postgraduate programmes or access specialized training. Some examples of UNU contributions to capacity development in the global South are cited directly below.

86. The UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean organizes high-level technical education programmes in partnership with universities and research institutes in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

87. Through its research, the UNU Centre for Policy Research develops resources and tools to help Governments in the global South analyse and assess challenges, identify feasible solutions and implement targeted approaches, strategies and policies in response. Many of the Centre's Senior Fellows are based in the global South.

88. The Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies welcomes numerous interns from the global South, holds specialized training sessions at locations in the global South and offers training devised specifically to build capacity in the global South.
89. The UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance delivers technical assistance for the implementation of digital governance projects in Africa, supports a master's degree programme in Cabo Verde and awards scholarships to researchers in developing countries so that they can present their work at the annual International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance.
90. A core objective of the support of the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, hosted by the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security, to the Group of 20 is strengthening of the national and institutional capacities of the global South to manage climate and disaster risks. In 2022, the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative co-organized two workshops for finance and environmental ministries of vulnerable countries. The UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security conducted a project aimed at developing and validating Earth observation-based indicators to monitor the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 using the example of flooding in Ecuador.
91. The examination of the barriers to sustainable infrastructure in Chile and the analysis of the socioecological and economic multiscale sustainability of urban and periurban agriculture in Colombia are examples of projects of the UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources that help to build capacity in the global South.
92. Among the initiatives of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability that focus on capacity development in the global South are the Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development, the Satoyama Development Mechanism and the Regional Research on Climate Change Displacement and the Right to Education project. The Institute serves as secretariat of the global Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development network.
93. The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health Decolonizing Global Health programme seeks to elevate the voices and perspectives of health actors from the global South. The Institute uses its role within the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health as a vehicle for developing, testing and refining a decolonial feminist approach to engagement. The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health is a member of the consortium that maintains the Regional Training Centre for the Western Pacific.
94. With its headquarters and five operating units in Africa, the UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa works with local actors across the continent and monitors natural resource management trends. Central to its mission to “amplify African perspectives, promote made-in-Africa solutions, and cultivate African natural resource management capacity” is the Institute’s College of Research Associates, which brings together a network of senior African scientists, academics and development practitioners.
95. The Institute for Water, Environment and Health works exclusively for and largely with the global South. All of the Institute’s outputs, that is, replicable tools, concepts, data sets, syntheses and analyses, are developed with a view to supporting the developing countries of the global South in their journey towards sustainable development.
96. Two of the projects of the United Nations University Institute in Macao, China, promote artificial intelligence capacity-building in South-East Asia. One focuses on gender-based artificial intelligence policy, while the other centres on a study of the

gendered implications of artificial intelligence for implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

97. In its core work, the United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology engages on a continuous basis with partners and individuals from the global South. Many of the Institute's educational programmes either specifically target students from the global South or focus on issues faced by the global South. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Institute on Innovation and Technology is developing a programme on social protection for stakeholders in the global South.

98. The UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe collaborated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2022 in helping young professionals in institutions and organizations in six countries in Africa and Latin America work on developing climate solutions and fostered the participation of young professionals and practitioners at international climate forums.

99. A core aim of the World Institute for Development Economics Research is to support the broadening and diversification of voices and perspectives in development research and thereby address inequities in relations between researchers in the global North and South. Through in-depth country-level engagements, the Institute prioritizes the involvement of researchers based in the global South and proactively connects with academic and scientific communities located there. Through local trainee programmes and the embedment of researchers in local organizations, the World Institute supports institutional capacity development in a set of targeted countries, including Mozambique and South Africa.

Personnel

100. As of year-end 2022, 43 per cent of UNU personnel were nationals of developing countries. Among the 251 students enrolled in UNU postgraduate degree programmes during that year, 45 per cent of students pursuing a Master of Science degree and 69 per cent of PhD degree candidates were from developing countries. A significant number of those students received financial support through UNU fellowships and scholarships.

V. Knowledge delivery: disseminating information to those who need it

101. A core objective of the UNU Strategic Plan 2020-2024 is to strengthen the University's collaborations, communications and visibility. UNU seeks to disseminate relevant, evidence-based knowledge to those who can utilize it, namely, practitioners, policymakers, academics, affected populations and the general public, in a timely manner and in a useful form. The University achieves this through five main channels: publications, events, training opportunities, briefings, and mass media and online outreach.

A. Publications

102. UNU publishes a wide variety of document types, such as reports, policy briefs and working and discussion papers. Moreover, UNU researchers author books, contribute chapters to edited volumes and publish articles in peer-reviewed journals, magazines and newspapers. More than 7,700 publications deriving from UNU research are accessible online through Collections at UNU, including more than 270 publications published in 2022. Other publications are available for downloading

from the website of the Institute that prepared them or the website of the external partner that published them.

103. In 2022, UNU researchers published or contributed to 84 books and wrote or co-wrote 317 articles in scientific journals, 245 working and discussion papers, 99 research and technical documents and 97 policy papers in the form of reports and briefs.

B. Events

104. Events help to extend the impact and the reach of UNU research. In 2022, UNU successfully convened more than 650 events, including 109 conferences and symposiums, 257 seminars and workshops and 99 lectures, either organized as in-person gatherings or held online. Many UNU events are open to the general public, while others target specialized audiences. For a listing of major events in 2022, see the events section of the UNU website.

C. Postgraduate education and specialized training

105. UNU offers six postgraduate degree programmes. Three of them confer a Master of Science degree: Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security (Bonn: UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security and University of Bonn); Public Policy and Human Development (Maastricht: United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology and Maastricht University); and Sustainability (Tokyo: UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability). The other three programmes award a PhD degree: Integrated Management of Water, Soil, and Waste (Dresden: UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources and Technische Universität Dresden); Innovation, Economics and Governance for Development (Maastricht: United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology); and Sustainability Science (Tokyo: UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability). In 2022, 251 students (152 master's degree candidates and 99 doctoral degree candidates) were enrolled in these programmes: 54 per cent were nationals of developing countries and 57 per cent were women.

106. Each year, UNU organizes dozens of specialized non-degree training opportunities, ranging from single-day workshops to multiweek courses on topics covering the gamut of UNU thematic areas of focus. In 2022, UNU organized or co-organized 155 such training opportunities, 92 of them held partially or entirely online, which were attended by more than 18,200 students, of whom more than 49 per cent were from developing countries and 46 per cent were women.

107. Many institutes provide research-based training opportunities as a complement to these formal study programmes and courses, through which young scholars and researchers can enhance their skills and knowledge by collaborating with or working alongside UNU staff.

D. Briefings and presentations

108. UNU experts are regularly invited to give briefings at high-level forums and inter-agency bodies or to make presentations to policymakers, government officials and key stakeholders. To highlight just one example: in 2022, researchers at the UNU Centre for Policy Research briefed the Security Council on Colombian reintegration ahead of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in

Colombia ; advised Security Council members and senior United Nations officials on sanctions and humanitarian action; engaged with high-level government representatives on modern slavery risks; and met with personnel from a range of permanent missions to the United Nations. The Centre for Policy Research also facilitated a briefing to Member States by the co-chairs of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

E. Mass media coverage and online outreach

109. To increase the University's visibility, raise awareness about its work and generate public engagement, UNU relies on coverage by traditional media outlets and conducts outreach via the Internet, social media platforms and a monthly email newsletter. In that regard:

(a) *Mass media.* in 2022, more than 22,000 articles about UNU and its research were published worldwide, primarily in English (60 per cent), Japanese (18 per cent), German (4 per cent), Spanish (3 per cent), Chinese (3 per cent) and Portuguese (3 per cent). Coverage was provided mainly by online news sites (60 per cent) and blogs (30 per cent), as well as forums (4 per cent), newspapers (3 per cent) and magazines (2 per cent);

(b) *Internet.* during the year, UNU websites received more than 5.4 million page views, including more than 1.6 million page views for the global UNU system website (unu.edu) and 865,000 page views for the UNU Our World research newsletter;

(c) *Social media.* UNU has an active social media presence. As of year end, UNU had more than 138,000 Facebook followers, 182,000 Twitter followers and 88,000 LinkedIn followers. During the year, more than 50,100 tweets and 3,200 Facebook messages mentioned UNU, primarily in English (75 per cent) and Japanese (20 per cent);

(d) *Email.* at year end, *INSIGHTS*, the UNU monthly email newsletter, was reaching more than 39,000 subscribers.

Annex

Members of the Council of the United Nations University Appointed members¹

Serving from May 2022 to May 2028

Yamini Aiyar (India) – President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research (New Delhi)

Sir Hilary Beckles (Barbados) – Professor and Vice-Chancellor, University of the West Indies

Enrique Forero (Colombia) – Chair and Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Science Council

Catherine Kyobutungi (Uganda) – Professor and Executive Director, African Population and Health Research Center

Kuni Sato (Japan) – Ambassador and Adviser, East Japan Railway Trading Company

Vanessa Scherrer (France) – Vice-President for International Affairs, Sciences Po

Serving from May 2019 to May 2025

Funmi Olonisakin (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Nigeria), Chair, Council of the United Nations University) – Vice-President and Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development, King's College London

Denisa Čiderová (Slovakia) – Associate Professor, Department of International Trade, and Liaison for Idea Puzzle, University of Economics (Bratislava)

Comfort Ero (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) – President and Chief Executive Officer, International Crisis Group

Xin Fang (China) – Professor, University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Adam Habib (South Africa) – Professor and Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Brenda Yeoh (Singapore) – Raffles Professor of Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

Serving from May 2016 to May 2022

Carlos Henrique de Brito Cruz (Brazil) – Professor and Senior Vice President, Elsevier Research Networks

Isabel Guerrero Pulgar (Chile) – Executive Director, IMAGO Global Grassroots; Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School

Angela Kane (Germany) – Vice-President, International Institute for Peace; Senior Fellow, Vienna Centre for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; Professor, Sciences Po (Paris)

Segenet Kelemu (Ethiopia) – Director General and Chief Executive Officer, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

Radha Kumar (India) – Policy Analyst

¹ For profiles of the current members of the Council of the United Nations University, see <https://unu.edu/about/unu-council>.

Tsuneo Nishida (Japan) Ambassador and Special Adviser to the President of Kanagawa University; Honorary Director, Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University

Ex officio members of the Council of the United Nations University

Rector of the United Nations University

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research
