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Draft report

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Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

(Item 4 (a))

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2023

1. At its 13th meeting, on 21 May 2024, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2023 ([E/2024/11](#)).

Discussion

2. Delegations conveyed their thanks to the Secretary of CEB for introducing the annual overview report. Delegations expressed that they had found the report to be edifying and valuable, and a delegation congratulated the Board for having been proactive on topics such as strategic foresight and advances in artificial intelligence. Another delegation commended the measures taken by CEB aimed at strengthening policy coherence and coordination. Hope was expressed by one delegation that CEB would focus on developing uniform approaches to the implementation of mandated activities only with regard to those organizations whose governing bodies had agreed to such work; where that had not been the case, the view was expressed that exceptions to the system-wide practice of CEB should be made.

3. References to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” were noted in the introduction of the CEB annual overview report (paras. 4 and 5). A delegation recalled that Our Common Agenda had been taken note of by Member States in General Assembly resolution [76/307](#) and that it was premature to present it as a road map for national Governments. Similarly, the point was made that



Member States had not mandated the United Nations 2.0 initiative, which the Secretary-General had proposed in Our Common Agenda.

4. In the context of CEB work on duties to the future (paras. 6 and 7), it was recalled that Member States were focused on negotiations on the draft Declaration on Future Generations. A delegation expressed its gratitude to the members of the High-level Committee on Programmes Core Group on Duties to the Future for its work in conceptualizing the idea of future generations and informing the intergovernmental negotiations on the draft Declaration. At the same time, it was emphasized that the work of the Core Group should not replace the national priorities and strategic vision of Member States. The point was made that the concept of “rights of future generations” had no legal basis, and that future generations could not be covered by current international human rights treaties. The delegation was of the view that the only way to ensure the well-being and prosperity of future generations was through social development, including poverty reduction, full employment and social inclusion. The importance of preserving cultural diversity and supporting the family as the basic unit of society was also stressed.

5. Moreover, it was highlighted that international data governance was under discussion by Member States in the intergovernmental process to develop the global digital compact. In that context, the delegation observed that the concept of “international data governance that was grounded in human rights” reflected in the annual overview report (para. 8) was not currently recognized under international law.

6. With regard to international drug policy and human rights (paras. 13 and 14), efforts to strengthen coordination among United Nations system entities in the fight against the world drug problem, under the leadership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, were supported. In that context, a delegation stated that it was essential for guidelines agreed upon by Member States to serve as a reference for all United Nations bodies. A question about the mandate and the rationale for the focus by CEB on the human rights aspects was posed. A delegation expressed the hope that the final document of the 2024 midterm review of the implementation of political commitments in the fight against the world drug problem, adopted in March 2024 at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, would guide United Nations action on countering narcotics. The delegation further stated that the 2018 United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration was at odds with the vision of global drug policy approved by the Commission and could not be considered to be a basis for the development of technical assistance programmes.

7. Efforts to mainstream the human rights of older persons (para. 15) were supported, and any additional information on concrete steps taken or planned in that context were welcomed. A delegation indicated that it expected that the United Nations would be guided by the practical interests of that population and focus on promoting and protecting all human rights.

8. A delegation called attention to text referencing the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C (para. 23), stating that the wording should be in line with the Paris Agreement to keep the global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and make efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

9. In the context of the work by the CEB machinery on artificial intelligence (paras. 25–27), more information was requested on the timelines of the work by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence of the High-level Committee on Programmes and on the discussions on the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system held during the joint session of the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management on the governance of

artificial intelligence. Another delegation enquired about the deadline for the development of a system-wide normative and operational framework for the use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system by the task force established under the High-level Committee on Management, and whether it would be made available to Member States or the broader public.

10. With regard to the update on the transition of the Strategic Foresight Network of the High-level Committee on Programmes (para. 34), clarity was sought on what grounds the efforts to support foresight capacities and futures literacy across the United Nations system were being pursued.

11. A delegation expressed support for the CEB goal of driving behavioural change in the work culture of the United Nations system (paras. 35–43), fostering a safe and inclusive working environment while advancing innovations in working methods and preventing and responding to allegations of sexual harassment. Another delegation objected to the use of the word “marginalization” in relation to the work of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations, drawing attention to the statement that “racism, exclusion and marginalization affect workforce morale” (para. 38). In addition, that delegation sought clarity on the meaning of the word “diversity” in the section of the report on “diversity, equity and inclusion”.

12. On the principle of mutual recognition (para. 49) in the United Nations system, which included systems contracts, it was observed by one delegation that, in its resolution [76/274](#), the General Assembly had noted the obligation to comply with the four common procurement principles set out in paragraph 5.12 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations ([ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#)), which in turn had to be respected in the context of enhanced cooperation and system-wide coherence on supply issues.
