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Towards global partnerships

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Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [76/224](#) of 17 December 2021 and preceding resolutions under the agenda item as referenced therein,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,



Reaffirming further its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the general guidelines and principles contained therein, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming its resolution [73/291](#) of 15 April 2019, the annex to which contains the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires in March 2019, in which heads of delegations and high representatives of Governments recognized the increasing role played by inclusive partnerships in South-South and triangular cooperation, while acknowledging that Governments have the principal role of coordinating and leading development efforts, and stressing that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation,

Recalling the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in particular with regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,

Welcoming the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22–23 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York at which resolution [79/1](#) entitled “The Pact for the Future” and its annexes were adopted,

Looking forward to the convening in 2025 of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, scientific and technological communities and academia that respect and support the core values and principles of the United Nations, to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, while acknowledging the role of parliaments in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of goals and commitments under the 2030 Agenda,

Emphasizing that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can further contribute to addressing the obstacles confronted in particular by developing countries, including by mobilizing the resources needed to finance sustainable development, and to realizing the internationally agreed development goals in developing countries,

Emphasizing also that multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, are important to mobilizing the knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources needed for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, complementing the efforts of Governments,

Noting that the relevant stakeholders, including private sector entities, need information about and understanding of the nature and the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the modalities by which they can engage with the Goals, and that, in this regard, decisive action is also imperative for raising awareness of the Goals at all levels,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda acknowledges that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors, recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, inter alia, through the creation of job opportunities, the advancement of economic development and the mobilization of private investment into developing countries and through respecting responsible business practices, such as the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,¹ and recognizing also the roles and contributions of civil society, the scientific and technological community, non-governmental organizations and other relevant international organizations, including international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, in advancing sustainable development,

Recognizing the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, in fostering stability and supporting a sustainable, inclusive and equitable recovery by creating job opportunities, advancing economic development, as well as sustainable infrastructure development, and contributing to trust and social cohesion,

Underlining the fact that any cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall be in accordance with applicable norms and regulations, including those pertaining to the use of the United Nations name or emblem, and stressing that such partnerships shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Recognizing that, while progress is being made on the global engagement of the private sector regarding the Sustainable Development Goals at the level of perception and awareness as well as the inclusion of sustainability in their business models by some companies, the immense potential of support for the Goals, in particular by small and medium-sized enterprises, still represents a largely unutilized source for the full implementation of the Goals,

Recognizing also the unique position of the United Nations as a builder of bridges among countries and all stakeholders, and the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and noting the establishment of partnerships at the field level entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings, and, in general, towards implementing corporate social and environmental responsibility, that is, bringing such values and responsibilities to bear on their conduct and policies premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Welcoming also, in the context of enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all its relevant partners, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, efforts to step up international cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation on the basis of common interest and mutual

¹ A/HRC/17/31, annex.

benefit, focusing on the needs of developing countries and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling the Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector and their alignment with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,

Noting that financial and economic crises demonstrate the need for values and principles in business, including for sustainable business practices, gender equality, social protection floors and the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Reaffirming the principles of sustainable development, and underlining the global consensus reached on the key values and principles that will promote sustainable, fair, equitable and sustained economic development and that corporate social and environmental responsibility are important elements of that consensus,

Encouraging the private sector in the context of enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all its relevant partners to enhance its involvement in combating climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification, and welcoming the commitments to leadership on climate action already made by relevant stakeholders,

Recalling that the high-level political forum on sustainable development has a central role in overseeing the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, including with regard to partnerships,

Stressing the importance of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in supporting the participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders pursuant to resolution [78/285](#) of 7 June 2024, and calling upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing the vital role that the United Nations Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector, in accordance with its mandate from the General Assembly, to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community, and in this regard noting the principles and initiatives of the United Nations Global Compact,

Recognizing also the critical importance of optimizing the potential of partnerships across the United Nations system and beyond, in particular in the context of sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and acknowledging the lessons learned from embracing new technologies and shortening timelines when partnering in response to COVID-19, which helped to enable greater inclusivity, speed, scale and impact with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;²

2. *Acknowledges* that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ requires a strong commitment to partnership at all levels between Governments, the private sector, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders, and therefore recognizes the importance of the various contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

² [A/79/531](#).

³ Resolution [70/1](#).

3. *Commits* to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth, recognizing the important contribution they can make toward achieving the 2030 Agenda, and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and reaffirms the importance of the regional and local dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional and local challenges and scaling up action among countries;

4. *Stresses* that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits;

5. *Also stresses* that partnerships will be critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as an effective instrument for mobilizing additional human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge, while reiterating that partnerships are a complement to, but are not intended as a substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving the Goals;

6. *Further stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where they are implemented, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

7. *Emphasizes* the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices, including providing and ensuring enforcement of the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks in accordance with national legislation and development priorities, and invites them to continue to provide support to United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

8. *Recognizes* the vital role that the private sector plays in sustainable development, including by engaging in various partnership models, by conducting responsible business practices, by generating decent employment as well as investment, by giving access to and developing new technologies, by offering technical vocational training activities and by stimulating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to steer the United Nations system towards giving greater attention to longer-term, strategic and innovation-based multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to leverage private sector competencies and technologies, with a view to generating greater potential for innovation and increased impact on sustainable development, which is needed for the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

10. *Emphasizes* that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and the executive heads of interested organizations should build on existing and ongoing efforts and continue to empower the United Nations Innovation Network or other existing United Nations joint innovation initiatives, such as Global Pulse, to identify and discuss issues that are relevant for the coordination of the existing innovation initiatives, funds, laboratories, accelerators and incubators, and their interface with the private sector, with a view to facilitating and stimulating innovation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to actively engage with other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and foundations, with a view to diversifying potential sources of funding, especially core funding, for their operational activities for development, in alignment with the core

principles of the United Nations development system and with full respect for the national priorities of programme countries;

12. *Recognizes* that these partnerships should give priority to core resources, while noting the need to make non-core resources from partners flexible and aligned with strategic plans and national priorities;

13. *Stresses* that greater effort is required to unlock new financial flows, including from mainstream institutional investors, for the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as a complement to public finance and international development cooperation;

14. *Welcomes* the growing number of businesses that embrace a core business model that takes account of the environmental, social and governance impacts of their activities, encourages and urges all businesses to adopt principles for responsible business and investing, and supports the work of the United Nations Global Compact in this regard;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds, programmes and the specialized agencies, at the request of national Governments, to improve their support for the building, development and strengthening of national capacities, to support development results at the country level and to promote national ownership and leadership, in line with national development policies, plans and priorities, taking into account their respective mandates and bearing in mind their comparative advantages, in assisting Governments in leveraging partnerships;

16. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to further improve the collaboration of the United Nations with all relevant partners, including the private sector, and recognizes his efforts to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations system, including by mainstreaming understanding of the role of partnerships throughout the system, and to discuss the potential for further strengthening of cooperation and coordination across the United Nations system with regard to partnerships, with a view to enhancing the results achieved through them, while acknowledging the importance of continued consultations with Member States;

17. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the Secretary-General to continuing to retain the integrity and unique role of the United Nations Global Compact, and underlines the importance of integrity measures as taken and advocated by the United Nations Global Compact;

18. *Invites* the United Nations system, when considering partnerships, to seek to engage in a more coherent manner with private sector entities, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, that support the core values of the United Nations, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant conventions and treaties, and that commit to the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operational corporate policies, codes of conduct, and management, monitoring and reporting systems;

19. *Recalls* the request to the Secretary-General, in this regard, as appropriate, in collaboration with the funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities and mechanisms, to disclose the partners, contributions and matching funds for all relevant partnerships, including at the country level, and to ensure that these elements are coherently reflected in the reporting of partnership activities by the United Nations funds, programmes and, as appropriate, agencies to their respective governing bodies;

20. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations system to continue its efforts to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and coherent approach across the United Nations system that places greater emphasis on

transparency, impact, accountability, due diligence and risk management, while taking into account the specific mandates of United Nations agencies, programmes and other entities and without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements;

21. *Acknowledges* the importance of corporate sustainability reporting, encourages companies, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability and due diligence information into their reporting cycles, encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to enhance existing models and develop new models for best practice and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building, and welcomes in this context the collaboration of the United Nations Global Compact with the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector;

23. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen global partnerships to foster youth employment and promote frameworks for action, including the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization, the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and the call for action on youth employment, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

24. *Invites* the academic, research and scientific communities to contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard recognizes the important role of the United Nations Academic Impact, among other initiatives, and to support and participate in multi-stakeholder partnerships to this end;

25. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the Global Africa Business Initiative annual forum, on the theme “Unstoppable Africa”, the Africa Business Leaders Coalition meeting, the annual United Nations Private Sector Forum, the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit, the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Forum, the high-level meeting on the theme “Ocean for the future”, the annual meeting of the Water Resilience Coalition initiative, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals business forum, organized by the United Nations and the International Chamber of Commerce to foster the implementation of the Goals;

26. *Recognizes* the work and the important role of the Global Compact Country Networks in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda locally and the work of the United Nations country teams and national development plans, as appropriate, and also recognizes that such networks provide an avenue for disseminating United Nations values and principles, strengthening the capacity of businesses through programming and facilitating partnerships with business on a broad scale, and notes the contribution of a number of these networks to voluntary national reviews;

27. *Also recognizes* the importance of cooperation between the United Nations system at the local level, including the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, or equivalent planning framework, to support the coordination and application of global partnerships;

28. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable, inclusive and productive business and entrepreneurial activities through partnerships, encourages Governments to create an environment that is conducive to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals, including by increasing

the number of women in leadership, management and entrepreneurship and the size of their businesses, and to prevent discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace, requests the United Nations Global Compact to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles and to encourage the Global Compact Country Networks to create awareness of the many ways in which business can promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community, and encourages the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality;

29. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Global Compact to engage Member States in its work through the United Nations Global Compact Government Group and the United Nations Global Compact Group of Friends as two important channels for Governments to engage on issues related to corporate sustainability, responsible business practices and public-private partnerships for advancing the 2030 Agenda, and in that regard encourages Member States to further engage with the Global Compact through those channels;

30. *Recognizes* the importance of the private sector, multi-stakeholder engagement, innovative partnerships and a conducive policy environment in achieving the 2030 Agenda, including by increasing productive capacity in developing countries and generating economic growth and sustainable and inclusive industrialization, in order to tackle global challenges, and the need to encourage responsible innovation, resilient value chains and the leveraging of rapid technological change for sustainable development, for the benefit of present and future generations, through new opportunities presented by safe, secure and trustworthy emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence;

31. *Recalls* that multilateralism is not an option but a necessity, and calls for an enabling environment for partnerships that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, in particular with regard to adherence by the private sector to the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact, and in addition, inter alia, promotion of investment in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and decent job creation, as well as aiming for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and negative biodiversity impacts, and for support for the implementation of the United Nations Global Compact strategy 2024–2025, including the United Nations Global Compact Africa Strategy 2024–2025 and the United Nations Global Compact sustainable supply chain and small and medium-sized enterprises programme, which are aimed at raising ambition and achieving stronger private sector engagement, accountability and partnerships, in support of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from COVID-19;

32. *Looks forward* to the forthcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the mandate of the United Nations Global Compact, in 2025, and the interest and engagement of the private sector in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through the exponential growth of the United Nations Global Compact participant base;

33. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Global Compact in advancing the adherence by the private sector to the 10 United Nations Global Compact principles of responsible business practices, in alignment with United Nations values and principles, in an enabling environment for partnerships that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-second session the item entitled "Towards global partnerships", unless otherwise agreed.