2024 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

Informal Note by the Secretariat

Contents

I.   Introduction

This informal note was prepared by the UN Secretariat, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 75/290 A, to inform the discussions at the Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council.

The informal note presents an integrated analysis of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and United Nations system entities in 2023, demonstrating how the ECOSOC functional commissions, expert bodies and UN system entities are addressing various dimensions of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within their respective mandates. In addition, the note proposes guidance for their contribution and strengthening coordination towards accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in times of multiple crises. In this context, the note makes proposals related to the implementation of the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit and lessons learned from the SDG thematic reviews and voluntary national reviews (VNR) conducted at the June 2023 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), with recommendations for follow-up, while also having in view the contribution by the ECOSOC system[1] to the Summit of the Future and other upcoming intergovernmental processes in the economic, social, environmental, health and related fields.

This informal note draws upon the breadth of knowledge and expertise of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies[2], including their analysis and operationalization of the interlinkages among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the perspective of their specific mandates, as well as on the UN system entities' activities and initiatives reflected in the UN System SDG Implementation online database[3]. Their key policy proposals and initiatives have contributed to the 2023 Political Declaration.

Furthermore, through various interagency mechanisms and the work of the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and the UN system Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), UN system entities continue to collaborate and coordinate actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

II.   SDGs at Half-Time: Towards the SDG Summit

In 2023, the Coordination Segment provided recommendations for the work of the ECOSOC system, as we approached the review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda halfway through the deadline. There was great emphasis on the importance of the 2030 Agenda as the guiding framework to overcome the crises, address the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the transformations needed to realize the SDGs. ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system entities provided important insights on progress made and further action needed, including recommendations on policy responses.

The urgency of committing to transformative action to accelerate the implementation of the Goals continued to be reinforced throughout the year in different fora. The UN 2023 Water Conference highlighted the critical importance of water for the health and prosperity of people and planet and sought to find solutions and accelerate action to solve the water and sanitation crisis, providing key insights to the review of SDG 6 undertaken at the 2023 HLPF. The 5th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) put a spotlight on the particular challenges of LDCs and offered a way forward to achieve sustainable development leaving no

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[1] The ECOSOC system is an ecosystem of bodies in the economic, social, environmental, cultural, educational, health and related fields that report to the Economic and Social Council. This includes the Council's subsidiary bodies (regional commissions, functional commissions and expert bodies, standing committees, ad hoc bodies, and other related bodies) and United Nations entities working in the matters under the purview of the Council, including specialized agencies.

[2] The infographics on the latest work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies are prepared as an additional input to the Coordination Segment. They can be found on the website of the Segment as well as on the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies website.

[3] The UN System SDG Implementation online database is the UN family's repository of actions, initiatives and plans on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is maintained by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

one behind, focusing on six key areas highlighted in the Doha Programme of Action[4]. The High-level meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework aimed at achieving renewed risk governance and risk management approaches to contend with 21st century challenges. It culminated in the adoption of a Political Declaration [5] that encouraged the adoption of risk-informed, prevention-oriented and multisector approaches on disaster risk management, combined with resilient and inclusive development planning, while highlighting the need for commitment at the highest levels in support of accelerated action. **UNOPS, ILO, UN Women** and Arup provided practical guidance on how to implement inclusive approaches to transport infrastructure development.

The 2023 SDG Progress Report showed that only 15% of the Sustainable Development Goal targets were on track, and progress on 50% of them is weak and insufficient. In view of the lackluster progress, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report called for transformative and accelerated change, through policies grounded in evidence, over the next seven years to 2030. During the 2023 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, participants expressed confidence that the SDGs remain within reach if game-changing policies and solutions presented by speakers are translated into action. The importance of fostering a renewed commitment to international solidarity and cooperation, along with better coordinated efforts to address complex global challenges, both current and emergent, continued to be emphasized.

As the SDG Summit approached, unequal distribution of and access to resources, services and opportunities continued to feed persistent and widening gaps that hinder progress and prosperity for all on a healthy planet, and contribute to social discontent and polarization. Unyielding and rising conflict situations were contributing to increased humanitarian emergencies and to worsening levels of food insecurity; record-breaking temperatures made the summer in the northern hemisphere the hottest on record, adding to the impacts set in motion by climate change; and the steady fast emergence and reach of Artificial Intelligence and other frontier technologies, as well as the ubiquity of digital platforms, were providing a glimpse of the multi-faceted impact of exponential technological progress and the risks that may come with it.

a. Navigating the evolving global landscape

Persistent and long-term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple interlinked crises are reversing years of sustainable development gains. COVID-19 reversed the decline experienced in recent decades and increased the number of people living in extreme poverty to 724 million in 2020, representing a 9.3% increase from the previous year. Estimates point to a total of 670 million people living in these same conditions by end of 2022, or 8.4% of the world's population (about the same proportion as in 2019). World economic growth was projected to slow from 3% in 2022 to an estimated 2.7-3.0% in 2023 and a forecasted 2.4-2.9% in 2024.[6]

At the same time, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent. The **2023 State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)** reported that food insecurity continued to rise around the globe, with 122 million more people facing hunger in 2022 compared to 2019, and 3.1 billion people not being able to afford a nutritious diet, with stark inequalities between urban and rural areas.[7] The UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, which took place in July 2023, provided a key opportunity to emphasize the

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[4] A/RES/76/258

[5] A/RES/77/289

[6] UNDESA, 2024, World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024, New York, January; and IMF, 2023, World Economic Outlook: Navigating Global Divergences, Washington, DC, October.

[7] World Economic Forum "This is the state of food security in 2023". The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023.

powerful role of sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient food systems as critical SDG accelerators, create a conducive space for countries to review progress on the commitments to action and identify successes, enduring bottlenecks and priorities in order to close the implementation gap. It advocated for urgent action, at scale, including the effective and efficient utilization of means of implementation for food systems transformation. The Secretary-General called for an urgent global effort to tackle the root causes of food insecurity, highlighting the importance of strengthening resilience to conflict and climate change.

In the context of these escalating challenges to global food security, the war in Ukraine has introduced additional complexities, disrupting food supply chains leading to soaring food prices and food shortages for the poorest and most vulnerable.

The situation in Haiti of gang activity and spreading violence, with a concomitant deterioration of the rule of law and adding extreme weather effects, has also resulted in alarming food insecurity and hunger[8]. In view of the dire situation, the **Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti** has intensified its efforts to address the complex and multi-faceted crisis in Haiti. Working Groups were established to support Haiti to: (1) strengthen the capacity and accountability of its public institutions, including Haiti's security and justice sectors; and (2) meet the needs of crisis-affected populations and build a more productive and resilient food system. Building on the work of the Advisory Group, the Council convened in June 2023, a Special Meeting on "Saving Lives: Addressing the urgent food security needs of Haiti" to help create a more productive and resilient food system in the country. The President of ECOSOC issued a Presidential Statement outlining urgent actions to support Haitians and to increase food security in the country. In addition, the Council continued to integrated, coherent and coordinated support from the UN system to promote, in line with respective mandates, the complementarity and effectiveness of sustainable development, humanitarian action and peacebuilding in South Sudan and the Sahel region. There were calls for intensifying mobilization of resources to invest in the transitions needed for these purposes, including energy transition, food systems and education. The **Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)** has stressed that the implementation of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development in fragile countries and countries emerging from conflict is critical to the re-establishment of good governance.

Conflict has escalated in various regions worldwide, reaching another critical juncture in October 2023, with the eruption of hostilities in Gaza. The intensification of the conflict in Gaza has exacerbated burgeoning humanitarian needs, adding substantial pressure to an already challenging situation. Furthermore, it has increased geopolitical tensions and strained the multilateral system, underscoring the complex and interconnected challenges faced by the international community. It is estimated that in 2024 nearly 300 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance and protection, due to conflicts, climate emergencies and other drivers.[9] By end of September 2023, 114 million people had been forcibly displaced[10].

This complex global situation underscores the pressing need for international attention and concerted efforts to address the underlying root causes and complexities contributing to heightened tensions. The 2030 Agenda stands as a uniquely positioned framework, offering essential guidance and a comprehensive approach to address current as well as future complex challenges. Adopted by all Member States of the United Nations, the 2030 Agenda recognizes that peace and sustainable development are intrinsically related and mutually reinforcing. Investing in sustainable and inclusive development today is tantamount to investing in a more peaceful tomorrow.

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[8]"Unseen and unheard: Haiti weathers hunger, gangs and climate extremes" WFP
[9] 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview
[10] UNHCR, 2023 Mid-Year Trends Report, October 2023

The [Political Declaration](#) of the 2023 SDG Summit underscored the ongoing challenges posed by the persistence or intensification of armed conflicts and instability in various regions worldwide, which are inflicting significant human suffering and adding formidable challenges to the realization of the SDGs. Member States recognized that sustainable development and peace and security are deeply interlinked and committed to promoting "a systemic shift towards a more inclusive, just, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world for people and planet, for present and future generations."

b. The ubiquity of artificial intelligence in the era of digital transformation

As global tensions mount, the concomitant expansion of the digital world becomes a pivotal factor shaping dynamics at all levels. The interconnectedness of our increasingly digitalized society introduces new dimensions in navigating complex challenges. Digital transformation harbors vast potential to provide innovative solutions across diverse domains, bridging gaps and tailoring solutions suitable for all national contexts, especially those in developing countries. However, amidst this potential lies the imperative to address the associated dangers, such as cybersecurity threats, and ethical and human rights considerations, to harness the benefits of the digital era responsibly and effectively.

In the dynamic era of digital transformation, the extensive influence of artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the landscape of technology and human interaction. AI, with its ability to analyze vast datasets, derive insights, and adapt in real-time, has become an integral force propelling innovation across diverse sectors. Generative AI has seamlessly integrated these technologies into our daily lives, showcasing their immense potential while also raising awareness of potential risks. These models have demonstrated unprecedented capabilities in natural language understanding, content creation, and problem-solving. From enhancing efficiency in businesses to revolutionizing healthcare, education, and beyond, AI's ubiquity is transforming the way we work, live, and connect. **UNCTAD**'s [Technology and Innovation Report 2023](#) identifies 17 frontier technologies, representing a potential $1.5 trillion market, which could grow to $9.5 trillion by 2030. Developed countries are currently leading in this area, and the report highlights the importance of developing countries embracing frontier technologies early to reap their benefits. There is need for policy changes and international support to bridge the technological gap, together with an urgent boost in technical skills, scaling up of investments in ICT infrastructure, and addressing the connectivity gaps between small and large firms, between urban and rural regions, and for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Automation and intelligent technologies can streamline routine processes, allowing human workers to focus on more complex and creative aspects of their jobs. The collaborative interplay between humans and AI is giving rise to **new forms of employment**, emphasizing the importance of skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence. AI and digitalization are also influencing the gig economy and remote work. **Education and vocational training** will need to adjust to provide the reskilling and upskilling required to adapt to the evolving nature of tasks and job roles. **ILO**'s [study on Generative AI](#) concluded that this technology is more likely to augment than destroy jobs by automating some tasks rather than taking over a role entirely. The ECOSOC Special Meeting on "[The future of work: towards a productive, inclusive and sustainable global society](#)" highlighted the need for a better understanding of the factors driving labor market transformations in order to design appropriate responses.

However, there are also concerns to be assessed. The rise of flexible employment provides new opportunities while also raising questions about job displacement and access to social security and services. Furthermore, as these technologies continue to advance, ethical considerations, data privacy concerns, and the potential for bias underscore the need for careful and responsible deployment. The expanding digital world, while offering unprecedented connectivity, has also become a powerful amplifier for the dissemination of misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech, emphasizing the critical importance of fostering a

responsible and ethical digital environment. The seamless capability of AI to generate credible yet false information poses an additional critical challenge, necessitating proactive measures to safeguard the integrity of information and to create safe digital spaces free of discrimination and hate. The Secretary-General published a policy brief on Information Integrity on Digital Platforms, and the United Nations has started to develop a Code of Conduct to help countries, tech companies and communities address the proliferation of lies and hate online. **UNESCO, OHCHR, DGC, UNDP**[11]**, UNHCR** and other UN partners are also actively engaged in fostering access to information and upholding information integrity, both of which are pivotal for making informed decisions that are crucial to achieving sustainable development and ensuring the universal enjoyment of human rights in the digital era.

As people and organizations harness the power of digitalization and frontier technologies, such as AI, to streamline processes and generate valuable insights, the international community navigates a future where intelligent technologies could drive unprecedented advancements alongside formidable challenges. The number of AI-related legislation adopted around the world is increasing.[12] However, the global nature of the phenomena will require solutions at the global level. **UNESCO**'s Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms will help countries in setting human-rights-based governance system for digital platforms. In follow up to its Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted in November 2021, the **Second Global Forum on the Ethics of AI** will take place in Slovenia on 5-6- February 2024 under the patronage of **UNESCO**, with particular focus on changing the landscape of AI governance. The **CEB** also adopted Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System. The Secretary-General's newly established **High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence** has launched its Interim Report Governing AI for Humanity, calling for grounding artificial intelligence in universal principles. Consultations are underway on a **Global Digital Compact** that aims to mitigate the risks of digital technologies and identify ways to harness their benefits for the good of humanity.

c. Exacerbated impacts of climate change

The crisis of climate change and its impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, as well as biodiversity loss, desertification, sand and dust storms, and pollution, including plastic, air, and chemical pollution, threaten planet and people. People rely on nature for their survival. Yet, over one million species are at risk of extinction and ecosystems, on land and water, are increasingly endangered due to human activity. These challenges are pushing the world to the brink, particularly in developing countries and for the poorest and most vulnerable.

In the 2023 UN World Water Development Report, **UNESCO** reported that approximately three billion people experience water shortages for at least one month every year[13], posing severe risks to livelihoods. The Synthesis Report of the **IPCC** showed that human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850–1900 in 2011–2020. Moreover, countries that have low contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change, such as African countries and SIDS, are experiencing widespread losses and damages attributable to human-induced climate change. **UNICEF** showed in a new report that weather-related disasters have uprooted a staggering 43.1 million children, almost 20,000 children displaced every day, in the past 6 years. Indigenous peoples are on the frontline of global conservation efforts, safeguarding an estimated 80% of the world's biodiversity; yet, they suffer the most immediate and drastic impacts of the

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[11] https://www.undp.org/policy-centre/oslo/information-integrity
[12] 2023 AI Index, Stanford University.
[13] Imminent risk of a global water crisis, warns the UN World Water Development Report 2023 | UNESCO

triple planetary crisis. The **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)**, which centered its discussions on "Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health, and climate change: a rights-based approach", urged Member States to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are afforded full and effective participation in all planning and policy development to address climate change so that they can incorporate their vital knowledge of land management and stewardship of natural resources while protecting health, equity, justice and sustainability. Principles of free, prior and informed consent must be followed in the development of all climate change policies and actions.

Over 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas, highlighting the importance of trees and urban forests to make our cities cooler and help filter fine particulates from the air. Moreover, the global urban population facing water scarcity was 930 million in 2016 and is projected to double to 1.7–2.4 billion people in 2050. **UNEP** reported that 99% of the world's population breathes polluted air, causing a staggering 6.7 million premature deaths each year. The **IPCC** Synthesis Report showed that access to clean energy and electrification, and shifts to active mobility and public transport, can enhance air quality, health, employment, and can elicit energy security and deliver equity. The **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** continued to advance the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030[14] – a blueprint to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees, halt deforestation and forest degradation – focusing on Global Forest Goals 2 (Enhanced forest-based benefits) and 3 (Increased area of sustainably managed forests).[15] A midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) will be carried out during UNFF's forthcoming session.

Early warning systems are needed to save lives, reduce losses, and support climate change adaptation, but fewer than half of the world's countries have such systems in place, with particularly low coverage in vulnerable countries.[16] Early warning systems can significantly reduce casualties and mitigate losses and damages resulting from hazardous weather, water, or climate event and are a highly cost-effective tool. The Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative aims to ensure global protection through early warning systems by 2027. Answering this call, the Early Warnings for All Action Plan for Africa, led by **WMO**, was launched at the Africa Climate Summit in September 2023, with the primary objective of making sure that timely and accurate information about natural hazards and impending disasters reaches all segments of African society, particularly the most vulnerable.

The urgent need to address biodiversity loss, fragmentation in habitats, and plastic pollution was emphasized at the Fifth **UN Environmental Assembly** (UNEA-5). A historic resolution to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024 was adopted, among other important commitments. UNEA-6 will take place from 26 February to 1 March 2024 and will focus on effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

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[14] A/RES/71/285
[15] UNFF's 18th session.
[16] UNDRR and WMO (2022) "Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems: Target G".

Against this background of a rapidly closing window of opportunity to ensure a livable and sustainable future, the Secretary-General launched an Acceleration Agenda and hosted the 2023 **Climate Ambition Summit** aimed at galvanizing transformational and credible actions, policies and plans to accelerate the decarbonization of the global economy, as well as deliver climate justice by government, business, finance, local authorities, and civil society. At the **COP28**, with the first global stocktake on progress made, urgency mounted for concrete agreements to accelerate climate action. The first ever Children, Youth, Education and Skills Day was held, and **UNDRR** and **UNOPS** were selected as the initial hosts of the Santiago Network secretariat. Member States adopted a decision to operationalize the new Loss and Damage Fund, followed by the adoption of the outcome of the first global stocktake, calling on Parties to take action on finance, adaptation and mitigation to keep 1.5°C goal within reach.

III. From Commitments to Action: The path to the Summit of the Future

a. Regroup, re-energize, recommit: Escalating impact, empowering the future

Scholarship on the SDGs has converged on identifying transformative entry points, known as key transitions, that possess catalytic and multiplier effects across the entire SDG framework, playing a pivotal role in achieving the Goals. These transitions span crucial areas such as food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, as well as addressing complex and interconnected challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.[17]

However, achieving these transitions requires effective means of implementation, including radical improvements in the utilisation of science, technology, and innovation, bridging the data gap, and strengthening SDG localization. This also implies the need to enhance governance through transformed policy and regulatory frameworks, along with enhanced national public sector capabilities for delivering and implementing policy action and mobilizing the required investments for market-ready projects in pipelines. The final critical element in this equation is a transformation of financing.In preparation for the SDG Summit, the UN system mobilized around 12 High Impact Initiatives (HII) that embedded these key transitions, each aiming to address specific aspects crucial for advancing sustainable development and achieving the SDGs by 2030, providing a platform to rally all actors behind accelerating progress in the SDGs.[18]

b. Transforming food systems and eradicating poverty for an inclusive and sustainable world

Agrifood systems generate significant benefits to society, including nutritious food as well as jobs and livelihoods for over a billion people. However, they have also generated negative impacts due to unsustainable practices, which are contributing to climate change, natural resource degradation and the unaffordability of healthy diets.[19]

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[17] Rooted in the 17 Goals, the identified transitions represent a useful organizing frame that can spotlight investment pathways to accelerate SDG progress within and across countries, with the prevailing country context determining the priority level and action accorded to each area.

[18] https://www.un.org/en/sdg-summit-2023/page/transformative-action

[19] The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2023, FAO.
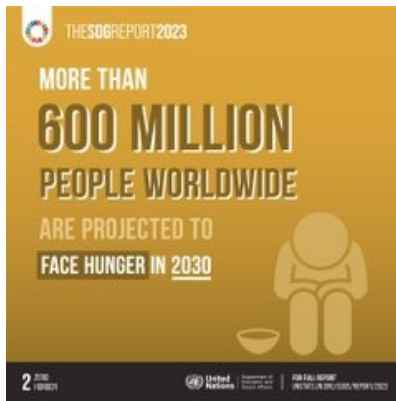
Building on the outcomes of the 2021 Food Systems Summit and ongoing means of implementation – including the School Meals Coalition, Food is Never Waste Coalition, Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets, Zero Hunger Coalition, the Scientific Group, the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples´ Food Systems, and the youth groups – the HII on "Food Systems Transformation: Transforming food systems for a sustainable world without hunger" – led by **FAO**, **WFP**, **World Bank**, **UNEP**, **IFAD**, **UNDCO**, **WHO** and **UNIDO**, and in line with the Secretary-General's Call to Action – seeks to increase integrated support to countries' transformation efforts prioritizing food system transformation, ensuring global food security and promoting healthy diets by working with national food systems convenors, optimizing assistance from the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and other relevant UN entities, and leveraging means of implementation across various stakeholders. To achieve this, mobilizing approximately USD 4 trillion, or USD 680 billion annually until 2030, from public and private sector, IFIs and other relevant stakeholders in low- and middle-income countries is envisioned. The Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA), a joint initiative by **FAO** and **UNIDO**, was launched to generate investment in food system transformation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). **UNOOSA** issued a Recommended Practice on agriculture drought monitoring and hazard assessment using Google Earth engine under the **UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)** to identify drought extent and severity in affected regions using drought indices. In May 2024, the United Nations 6th Conference on Space Technologies for Water Management will aim to expand the use of space technologies and space-based data for better water resource management, with a thematic focus on the Water-Food Nexus.

Women play a critical role in global food production, and children are especially adversely impacted by food insecurity situations; yet, more than 1 in 4 four women are facing food insecurity worldwide, and the climate crisis is exacerbating this already challenging situation [20]. The **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** introduced the Gender Transformative Mechanism (GTM) to advance women's roles in climate work and reduce methane emissions from small-scale farming, an initiative that aims to improve the lives of 20 million rural people globally by 2030. IFAD is also providing technical assistance in 15 countries to advise governments on incorporating methane reduction strategies into their national plans. **WFP**'s H2Grow initiative continues to support access to fresh food and income generation for food-insecure families, while the Innovation Accelerator continues to provide innovative solutions, such as the ShareTheMeal initiative, to increase access to nutritious food and combat hunger and food waste.

Promoting sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices, ensuring equitable access to nutritious food, and fostering fair distribution throughout the supply chain not only bolster food security but also serve as crucial pillars in the pursuit of **poverty eradication** and greater equality. **ESCAP** adopted the Bangkok Declaration which recognized the importance of addressing the challenges of persisting poverty and inequalities, vulnerability to shocks, disasters and climate change and environmental degradation. It reaffirmed the commitment to accelerate progress towards a more equal, resilient and sustainable world and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN system-wide support to the 3rd International Decade

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[20] The gender snapshot 2023

for the Eradication of Poverty 2018-2027, led by **UNDESA**, aims to accelerate global actions for a world without poverty. Underlying the quest for sustainable food systems and the eradication of poverty, as well as tackling inequalities and promoting decent jobs and the protection of the environment, is the promotion, protection and fulfillment of all human rights for everyone. The **Human Rights Council** has been active in promoting a human rights approach in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as mandated in A/HRC/RES/43/19.[21] The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** held a general discussion on its proposed General Comment on sustainable development and economic, social and cultural rights, during which the need for the General Comment to consider human well-being, the rights of women and girls, access to technology and science, rights to social protection and redistribution of resources, greening the economy, extraterritorial obligations and investment strategies, cultural rights, and the right to a healthy environment was emphasized. **OHCHR**'s guidance note on Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews: Operational Common Approach The Guidance Note presents a practical 8-step approach with editable checklists for each step outlining suggested actions to assist Member States in developing their VNRs in a way that integrates human rights throughout the process, while also ensuring inclusive and meaningful participation, while its Surge Initiative is translating UN Human Rights Mechanisms' standards and recommendations into country-specific advice strengthen the integration of human rights into UN advocacy, planning, and programming processes, and advance the 2030 Agenda.

c. Digital transformation, data, and related gaps

In an era characterized by interconnected and cascading risks affecting health, employment, social equity, climate change, and environmental protection, digital transformation emerges as a pivotal force in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Governments worldwide are embracing digital technologies to modernize operations, share information, provide services, and make informed decisions. However, despite progress, many countries still lack the capacity to fully leverage digital technologies, hindering the delivery of accessible, reliable, fast, personalized, secure, and inclusive services. Empowering people through open and participatory mechanisms also remains a challenge.

The Secretary-General established a **new Scientific Advisory Board** to advise UN leaders on breakthroughs in science and technology and how to harness the benefits of these advances and mitigate potential risks, including assess the risks and opportunities of AI, biotechnology and climate. The Technology Facilitation Mechansim and associated annual Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) continue to provide spaces for all stakeholders to share information, experiences, best practices and policy advice to enable the application of game-changing science and technologies for SDG implementation. Furthermore, **UNIDO** developed a Digital Transformation Strategy to support Member States in leveraging AI to achieve an inclusive and sustainable digital transformation in industry. **ITU**, in partnership with 40 UN agencies, continues to hold the **AI for Good** innovation accelerator which aims to identify practical applications of AI to advance the SDGs and scale solutions to make a global impact. The forthcoming AI for Good Global Summit 2024 provides a platform for government officials, UN agencies, NGOs, industry leaders and AI experts to discuss the ethical, technical, societal and policy issues related to AI, offer recommendations and guidance, and promote international dialogue and cooperation in support of AI innovation for the implementation of the SDGs. **ITU** has also explored ways in which the **metaverse** can be used to achieving the SDGs and accelerate digital transformation through its forums on the metaverse, which started in 2023 and have focused on issues such as challenges and opportunities for an accessible,

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[21] See the 5th Human Rights Council intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

sustainable, and inclusive metaverse, international standards, and cities and the metaverse. It focuses on four enabling elements: digital infrastructure, digital governance, digital skills and digital cooperation. **UNESCO**'s inaugural Digital Learning Week focused on public digital learning platforms and generative AI, and examined how both can be steered to reinforce and enrich humanistic education. **UNESCO**, which is coordinating the implementation of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development 2024-2033[22], has also developed the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) which assesses the technical capacities of public servants and institutions as well as the legal, social, cultural, scientific, educational, technical and infrastructural adequacy of existing national laws and policies in more than 50 countries to frame technological development positively. The country reports will be shared as a platform for best practices and will inform the Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in early 2024. **ECLAC** launched the first Latin American AI Index, which showed that AI can contribute greatly to transforming development models in Latin America and the Caribbean while also cautioning potential threats.

The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023 recommended that the discussions and outcomes of its high-level segment be used as an input for cross-sectoral discussions by policymakers on strengthening the key role of ICTs in strategies and implementation. Its outcome document showed how WSIS Action Lines contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and called for enhanced interlinkages between the Forum and the 2030 Agenda follow-up process. Ahead of the WSIS+20 review in 2025, the **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)** launched, in cooperation with **ITU**, **UNESCO** and **UNDP**, the first open consultation at the Internet Governance Forum 2023. **CSTD** adopted a resolution [23] recommending that Governments use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues, such as the changing nature of work and potential gaps in education, including vocational training and digital and data literacy, and building consensus around inclusive, gender-responsive policy mixes to address them. CSTD further recommended the implementation of initiatives and programmes that encourage and facilitate sustainable investment and participation in the digital economy, and the engagement in an inclusive global discourse about all aspects of rapid technological change and its impact on sustainable development. In its forthcoming session, CSTD will undertake in-depth discussions on data and global cooperation in STIs for development.[24]

In support of **digital public infrastructure (DPI)** that is safe, accessible, affordable, sustainable, financed, and future ready, the HII initiative on "Digital Public Infrastructure: Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs, co-led by **ITU** and **UNDP**, aims to catalyze the collective action necessary to unlock targeted support for DPI implementation and strengthening in 100 countries by 2030. It will do so by working with leaders and scalable models, and as an integral part of SDG Digital. **UPU** has highlighted the central role of the global postal sector in deploying sustainable digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and recommended cross-sector collaboration and partnerships between postal and telecom sectors to foster inclusive digital infrastructure and service adoption, including through the use of postal networks for co-locating infrastructure.[25]

Significant investments are required to **enhance public sector capabilities** and expedite SDG delivery, especially in the context of digital transformation and an increasingly volatile and complex world. Recognizing the need for transformative changes, governments must equip themselves to proactively address development risks and foster sustainable, inclusive development aligned with their people's aspirations. The

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[22] Established by A/RES/77/326.
[23] CSTD's 26th session.
[24] CSTD's 27th session.
[25] UPU Think Tank Briefs
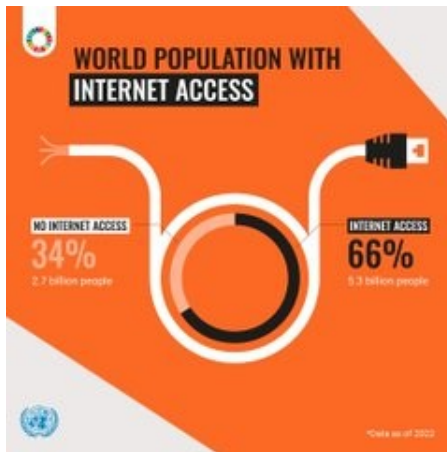
HII on "FutureGov: Building public sector capabilities for the future", led by **UNDESA** and **UNDP**, will offer technical assistance, allocate resources, facilitate intergovernmental learning, and serve as a knowledge platform to foster peer-to-peer connectivity, enabling countries to share expertise, address common challenges, and access specific training, resource materials and experts from both the Global South and Global North.

Capacity development is crucial in supporting the adoption of digital platforms for service delivery, citizen engagement, and efficient data management. The Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard (IDES) of the **UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** is a strategic performance and policy tool designed to help countries monitor and understand the status of their digital transformation, and foster the accelerated development of a digital economy that leaves no one behind. **ITU**'s Partner2Connect (P2C) multistakeholder alliance, launched in 2021, continues to advance universal and meaningful connectivity globally as well as sustainable digital transformation through the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships and commitments to this end. **UNDP** has set up a network of 91 accelerator labs designed to unleash actionable partnerships to accelerate learning on what it will take to achieve the SDGs.[26] The labs, which currently support 115 countries, are evolving into an open, globally distributed research and development (R&D) capability for the implementation of the SDGs. **ECA** convened a Peer learning Forum on development planning[27] focusing on the use of digital platforms to improve the effectiveness of development planning in promoting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063. On its part, **UNICEF** has been promoting frugal innovations such as Tippy Taps, Kangaroo Mother Care and clay water filters, to turn constraints into advantages. This type of innovation typically consists in developing simple products or services often born out of necessity and lack of resources and are designed by individuals who need them most using locally sourced materials[28]. UNICEF is also supporting the development of scalable platforms to assist in keeping up with the rapidly evolving challenges facing children through its UNICEF Venture Fund, which currently has a portfolio includes 72 investments in areas including data science, artificial intelligence, blockchain and extended reality (XR). **UNCDF** is also working with governments from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through its Policy Accelerator to provide technical assistance to improve the use of digital financial services, especially for women and other underserved groups that have traditionally been excluded from the formal economy. **UNEP** is scaling up environmental change through an effectively governed and inclusive, data architecture and digital ecosystem for the planet.

Data is the fuel propelling the digital transformation forward, powering technologies integral to our daily lives. The HII "Power of Data: Unlocking the data dividend for the SDGs" aims to launch 50 national data partnerships by 2030 to boost government decision making, accelerate digital transformation agendas, and open new economic and developmental opportunities by scaling up new approaches, partnerships and training to drive timely, ethical, and efficient data use, and support more and better investment through transparent and strategic approaches to financing data and statistical systems. The HII, which builds and amplifies the Data For Now initiative (Data4Now), aims to raise the percentage of available SDG data in countries to 90% by 2027.

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[26] Accelerator Labs | United Nations Development Programme (undp.org)
[27] ECA convenes Member States to strengthen development planning processes | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (uneca.org)
[28] What are frugal innovations? | UNICEF Office of Innovation

UNDESA's Global SDG Indicators Data Platform is a new interface that allows users to easily search, download and share up-to-date data on the implementation of the SDGs, for improved monitoring. It includes an improved SDG Analytics tool which allows for the interactive analysis of available data, including disaggregated data. **ESCAP**'s Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway further assists countries in the region to track and visualize their progress on implementing the SDGs. **ECLAC**'s Regional Knowledge Platform provides tools for statistical monitoring at the global, regional and national levels to track progress towards all 17 SDGs.

The third phase of the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative, led by the **IMF**, the Financial Stability Board and the **Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics**[29], aims to address data gaps on climate change, household distributional information, fintech and financial inclusion, and data sharing and access to private sources of data and administrative data, to provide policymakers an enhanced toolbox to develop policy in these critical areas. The **UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting**, established by the **Statistical Commission**, is involved in the work to close climate change data gaps using the **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** for G-20 countries and beyond. The Committee launched a global data collection for energy and air emission accounts, and advanced work on a statistical framework for measuring the circular economy in collaboration with **UNECE** and the **OECD**.

Lack of data hits marginalized and vulnerable groups the hardest. What is not measured cannot be achieved, accelerated or transformed. Migrants, women, refugees, people with disabilities, and specific minorities, among other groups, are not always well represented in data, resulting in their needs remaining unassessed and unmet. In the quest of representing all groups in data, **UNHCR** collaborated with **ITU** and **GSMA** to raise a Global Refugee Forum pledge on Connectivity for Refugees and bring together a wide coalition of actors to mobilize the expertise, resources, and investment needed to ensure all major refugee hosting areas have available and affordable connectivity by 2030, advancing the digital inclusion of more than 20 million people forced to flee and their hosts. Moreover, the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** adopted agreed conclusions calling on Governments and other relevant stakeholders to take action towards prioritizing digital equity to close the **gender digital divide**, leveraging financing for inclusive digital transformation and innovation, towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; fostering gender-responsive digital, and science and technology, education in the digital age; promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership, as well as full employment, of women in technology and innovation; adopting gender-responsive technology design, development and deployment; strengthening fairness, transparency and accountability in the digital era; enhancing data science to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; preventing and eliminating all forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technologies.[30] **UNICEF** and **ITU** are collaborating on GIGA, a joint initiative to connect every school to the internet that has connected over 2 million students in 136 countries to the internet since 2019.

Unlocking the power of data is significantly enhanced by incorporating non-traditional and innovative data sources, which play pivotal roles in broadening insights and expanding the depth of available information. The **Statistical Commission** advanced work on the use of **non-traditional and innovative data sources** for monitoring the SDGs[31], including big data[32] and citizen-generated data[33], and on the **integration of statistical**

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[29] The Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics includes the Bank for International Settlements, European Central Bank, Eurostat, IMF (Chair), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank.

[30] CSW's 67th session.

[31] Decision 54/101.

[32] Decision 54/116.

[33] Decision 54/102.

and geospatial information, and other data sources, for informed decision-making in response to the COVID-19 crisis, climate change, natural disasters, security issues, food production and other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda at the national, subnational and local levels[34]. The 12th meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, hosted by **ECLAC**, discussed the use of data collected by the **private sector** for official statistical purposes, acknowledging the potential for leveraging private sector data to produce official statistics in a more efficient and timely manner, while ensuring data security and respecting privacy. **Citizen-generated data** is also gathering increasing attention as an important part of the data ecosystem. The launch of the initiative Collaborative on Citizen Data by **UNDESA** aims to create a conceptual framework and a roadmap for citizens' engagement in multiple processes in the data value chain, empowering individuals and communities to contribute to data production, take control of their data, and improve their lives.

Space-based technology and data offer a unique vantage point for observation and data collection, providing valuable insights into Earth's phenomena. As recognized in the Space2030 Agenda, integration of space-based technology enhances the precision and comprehensiveness of data, fostering advancements in various fields, from environmental monitoring to global connectivity. The **United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)** continued to promote the accelerated implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) in support of the realization of the SDGs. The Committee adopted the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management (UN-IGIF-Hydro) to foster the efficient use of geospatial information to facilitate decision-making in support of sustainable oceans and seas and other marine resources, and will discuss in its forthcoming session how geospatial information can support and contribute to combatting the climate challenge and increasing resilience.[35] The **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)** adopted a decision to populate the World Geographical Names Database and strengthen the accuracy and completeness of its data to establish it as an authoritative depository of geographic names; called for the creation of a Trust Fund to strengthen toponymic standardization capacities in developing countries, and furthered cooperation with other UN bodies towards the standardization and dissemination of geographical names.[36] Furthermore, **UNOOSA** is actively promoting the use of space technologies to accelerate the SDGs through various initiatives. The International Conference on Space and Global Health, co-led by **UNOOSA**, **WHO** and **UNCTAD**, provided a forum to discuss different angles of the contribution of space to global health, in support of the implementation of GA resolution 77/120.

Redefining the essentials for sustainability and prosperity also requires **broadening our current metrics** to include considerations for both present and future generations, recalibrating the balance between costs and benefits impacting natural ecosystems, and embracing multidimensional measures that truly capture the essence of societal well-being. The **Statistical Commission** advanced work on **relevant measures of well-being and sustainability**, including on the research prospectus for an integrated statistical framework for inclusive and sustainable well-being to improve integration between economic and sociodemographic statistics and **go beyond gross domestic product (GDP)** in measuring well-being [37], and welcomed in this regard the update of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) to better account for elements related to well-being and sustainability[38], to be finalized in 2025. As mandated by the Commission, the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) produces and monitors international statistical recommendations and standards for improved statistics on forcibly displaced and

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[34] Decision 54/118.
[35] UN-GGIM's 13th session.
[36] UNGEGN's 3rd session.
[37] Decision 54/106
[38] Decision 54/107

stateless individuals, notably in support of their better inclusion in national statistical systems.[39] The Statistical Commission also endorsed the set of core and additional indicators on international migration and temporary mobility as an integral part of the upcoming revision of the "Recommendations on Statistics for International Migration".[40]

d. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

Effective action on the triple environmental planetary crisis – the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste – is urgently needed. The year 2023 has shown that climate change is here. Record temperatures are scorching the land and heating the sea, as extreme weather causes havoc around the globe, and the **global response is falling far short**. Global efforts to tackle hunger, poverty and ill-health, improve access to clean water and energy and many other aspects of sustainable development are also undermined by failure in meeting global climate goals.

UNFCCC's 2023 NDC Synthesis Report synthesizes information from the 168 latest available Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), representing 195 Parties to the Paris Agreement. **UNDP** has been supporting countries in turning their NDCs into actionable plans so they can reach their climate goals. **ESCAP** pushed for accelerated climate action in Asia and the Pacific through enhanced cooperation, including to catalyze climate finance, and promoting the discussion of policy options with emphasis on the shift from fossil fuels to renewables, low-carbon mobility and climate-smart trade and investment.[41] **UNFCCC** established regional collaboration centers (RCCs) to spread the benefits of the Clean Development Mechanism, which spurs investment in sustainable development by rewarding projects that reduce GHG emissions. The RCCs support national climate action through capacity-building, technical assistance and strategic networking, sourcing know-how and resources to drive clean development. Additionally, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action facilitates collaboration between governments, cities, regions, businesses, and investors to implement the Paris Agreement, striving for immediate emission reductions and enhanced resilience against climate impacts, while the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability uses digital technology to address the triple planetary crisis, and works to increase the number of countries and companies involved in a joint action plan under the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. **ITU**, together with other UN agencies and additional partners, launched Green Digital Action at COP28 to enhance collaboration, fast-track industry-wide commitments to addressing climate challenges, and put digital solutions at the forefront of climate action. **UNIDO** is coordinating the Clean Energy Ministerial Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative, a coalition of governments and private sector organizations working to decarbonize heavy emitting industries.[42]

Seeking to address environmental **pollution**, the Global Tourism Plastic Initiative, led by **UNEP** and **UNWTO**, has resulted in the removal of 108 million plastic items from circulation across the reporting businesses, and

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[39] Further initiatives enhancing data on refugees, internally displaced and stateless populations to build long-term economic resilience and individual potential include the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and their Global Framework Data Sharing Agreement, the UNHCR-WFP Joint Excellence and Targeting Hub, and the multistakeholder initiative UN Common Pledge 2.0.
[40] Decision 54/104
[41] ESCAP 79th session.
[42] Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative I Clean Energy Ministerial

the Smart tourism: A path to more secure and resilient destinations, led by **ITU**, shows how technologies and digitization are powerful tools for moving towards a tourism industry capable of ensuring its resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability. **WTO** has also made substantial progress in efforts to reduce plastics in international trade. The 5th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, organized by **UNEP** in September 2023, produced the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, essential for a safe, healthy and sustainable future. The **Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TDG-GHS)** has been working to update provisions for the safe transport of electric storage systems and alternative low-carbon fuels, and for enabling classification of hazardous chemicals using alternatives to animal testing, as well as on ways to further improve information provided in labels of chemical products.

The 2023 United in Science report, coordinated by **WMO** and combining expertise of **18 UN entities** and partners, showed how weather, climate and water-related sciences can advance aims such as food and water security, clean energy, better health, sustainable oceans and resilient cities. **CSTD** discussed the application of science, technology, and innovation in long-term water resource planning, integrated water resources management, and rapid, precise responses to prepare for emergency situations, with particular attention to women.[43] The **UNDESA-** and **UNFCCC**-led report on "Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together" underscored that **synergistic action on climate and the SDGs** should be a required component of national commitments, reporting and financing for climate and development goals, so that the climate emergency can be effectively addressed and sustainable development fully achieved.

Innovation and technology also have crucial roles to play in climate change **adaptation and mitigation**. **FAO**'s Science and Innovation Forum 2023 focused on enhancing the accessibility of the most appropriate climate technologies, innovative practices and local knowledge in agrifood systems for climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation. The **IMO**-**UNEP**-Norway Innovation Forum championed innovation to accelerate the transition of the maritime sector towards a low- or zero- Greenhouse Gas emission future. The second edition of **WIPO**'s new flagship publication Green Technology Book focused on climate change mitigation technologies, providing a matchmaking tool where solution providers can be contacted directly through a direct link to the WIPO GREEN Database of Needs and Green Technologies. **Catalyzing finance** for climate goals is crucial and innovative financing mechanisms are needed to reach the necessary scale of investment. **UNEP**'s Adaptation Gap Report 2023 found that the adaptation finance needs of developing countries are 10 to 18 times as big as international public finance flows, which is over 50% higher than the previous range estimate. The report identified seven strategies to boost financing, including domestic spending, international funding and private sector contributions, and emphasized the need for the newly established Loss and Damage Fund to actively explore and adopt innovative financing sources to achieve its objectives effectively. **CEPA** also underscored the urgent need to close the financing gap and supporting developing countries and subnational governments in accessing climate finance.[44] Moreover, in a world where the well-being of people hinges on the nurturing and sustained health of natural systems, addressing environment-related **risks** is paramount. **UNDRR**'s 2023 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) showed that human development pursuits must be recalibrated to not only preserve but restore ecosystems, fostering greater cooperation for foresight and risk analysis and ensuring that today's long-term investments are resilient to a more intense and volatile future climate. **Human rights** are also a powerful tool

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[43] CSTD 26th session.
[44] CEPA's 22nd session.

to help address the climate crisis. Rights-based climate action will enhance outcomes and their sustainability, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.

e. Fostering economic and community resilience

The anticipated slowdown in global economic growth is underpinned by a confluence of **risks and uncertainties**, including persistent underlying price pressures, increasingly stringent financial conditions, and burdensome debt levels. The global economy also faces challenges from multiple shocks, such as conflict and climate change, which may contribute to additional supply chain disruptions, along with the escalating risk of geopolitical fragmentation.[45] The global labour market has rebounded quickly since the pandemic, but this recovery has been uneven. There is evidence of a global employment divide, with low-income countries falling behind, requiring a critical focus on increasing social protections. The global jobs gap in 2023 is estimated at 453 million people, as a result of wage losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an uneven job recovery and rising living costs. Four billion individuals lack social protection. Moreover, global trade growth has decelerated to below 1% in 2023, due to a poor performance of merchandise trade[46], despite the boost produced by the new **WTO** Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Adjusting economic models to integrate environmental concerns is vital for tackling economic challenges and bolstering global resilience. This approach ensures a harmonious balance between economic growth and the vital necessity of safeguarding the irreplaceable resources offered by our planet, thereby securing a healthy and sustainable future for all. The HII on Nature Driving Economic Transformation: Leveraging the power of biodiversity and nature to drive equitable economic progress, led by **UNEP**, supports countries in shifting their economic policymaking towards sustainability, resilience, risk reduction and equity. It aims to do so by supporting countries in designing and implementing biodiversity-based economic policies and seeking an annual investment of USD 100 million in biodiversity-focused economic investments by 2025. The initiative also supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the commitments made under multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the fulfillment of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, through whole-of-society approaches in reducing disaster risk across environmental, economic and agricultural sectors. **UNDRR** launched in 2023 the Handbook for Implementing the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure, which details key actions to improve the resilience level of infrastructure systems. **UNEP**, **UNOPS** and the University of Oxford published a report showing how nature-based infrastructure solutions can influence 79% of all targets across the SDGs by addressing the infrastructure gap while simultaneously making progress on sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity.

Transitioning to **affordable and clean energy sources** is a critical step in this regard. The HII initiative on Energy Compacts: Scaling up ambition to deliver on SDG7 builds on the Secretary-General's Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action and aims to increase access to electricity to 500 million more people (with an increased annual investment to USD 35 billion) and clean cooking solutions to 1 billion more people (with an increased annual investment to USD 20 billion) by 2025, as well as secure trillions of dollars in financial commitments for energy transition, increase energy efficiency substantially, create 60 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and ensure universal access to electricity in all healthcare facilities and all schools worldwide by 2030. Additional initiatives underway to facilitate the shift towards sustainability, aiming to achieve the SDGs and mitigate the effects of climate change include the Africa Minigrids Program

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[45] UNDESA, 2024, World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024; IMF, 2023, World Economic Outlook: Navigating Global Divergences.
[46] UNCTAD, 2024, Trade and Development Report 2023, Geneva, January; and WTO, 2023, Global Trade Outlook and Statistics – Update: October 2023, Geneva.

led by **UNDP**, the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles by **UNEP**, and IMO CARES and the GreenVoyage2050 Project by **IMO**. **UNIDO** has also been supporting the Global Renewable Hydrogen Forum and acts as coordinator of the International Hydrogen Trade Forum, launched in 2023 to advance clean energy sources in industry.[47] On its part, the **Committee for Development Policy (CDP)** discussed [48] international dimensions of just transitions and recommended that Member States adopt inclusive strategies based on social and political dialogues tailored to each country's context, including ways to facilitate the involvement of developing countries in clean technology value chains and to finance resilience-building, especially for vulnerable communities. The CDP also recommended safeguarding policy space for industrial development, ensuring lower capital costs for sustainable infrastructure in developing countries, and preventing resource diversion from productive capacity development in the process of boosting climate action financing. A new approach to the Voluntary National Reviews that refocuses the reports away from descriptive narratives towards more in-depth analysis of successes and failures, policy insights and identification of structural obstacles was also recommended by the Committee. During its next session, the **CDP** will discuss innovation ecosystems for development, structural transformation and equity and will make recommendations on strategies, policy frameworks and institutional arrangements to harness opportunities of innovation for sustainable development. It will also conduct the 2024 Triennial Review of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category.

The HII on Transforming4Trade: Paradigm shift to boost economic development, led by **UNCTAD** with **UNDESA** and **UNIDO**, seeks to provide a platform for formulating and implementing Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programmes that support productive capacities and structural economic transformation as well as human capital development in all economic sectors. Based on the multidimensional Productive Capacities Index (PCI)[49], National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments (NPCGAs) are developed to assess domestic gaps in productive capacities' development and form the backbone of holistic, multisectoral and multiyear programmes designed to address development challenges and boost economic development. In the context of the Doha Programme of Action, Member States committed to promote the formulation of data-driven and evidence based NPCGAs in LDCs.. On its part, **ITC** is promoting competitiveness and sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and strengthening their ability to adapt, build resilience and manage risks through initiatives such as the Green Moonshot, which aims to catalyze 100,000 climate actions by MSMEs within the next four years, and Switch ON, which promotes digital connectivity for trade. The **Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)** continued it work to increase financial literacy, promote access to finance and help MSMEs to stay in the formal market and grow. The Group also published Tackling the Sustainability Reporting Challenge: A Policy Guide and, benefitting from the back-to-back holding of **UNCTAD**'s World Investment Forum, emphasized that reliable accounting and reporting on the financial and sustainability performance of private and public sector entities is a prerequisite for informed investment decisions and achieving the SDGs.

Decent employment opportunities offer the means to support a dignified life for workers and their families. The HII Global Accelerator: The Global Accelerator on jobs and social protection for just transitions, led by **ILO**, seeks to implement a strategy co-created by **12 UN agencies** and the Executive Office of the Secretary-

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[47] International Hydrogen Trade Forum I Clean Energy Ministerial

[48] CDP's 25th session.

[49] Productive capacities Index (PCI) measures economy-wide capacities to produce goods and services by using eight dimensions (natural capital, human capital, energy, ICTs, structural change, private sector, transport, and institutions) and 42 indicators. The Index is available at: https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/productive-capacities-index, or at: https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/.

General to strengthen institutions for social protection, decent job creation, skills development and enterprise support, facilitating the transition to a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy. The 15th session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by **ECLAC** in cooperation with **UN Women**, delivered the Buenos Aires Commitment with a comprehensive roadmap to move towards a care society, a critical step to enhance growth dynamics, reduce gender inequalities and facilitate the integration of women into the labor market. The **Commission for Social Development (CSocD)** adopted a resolution emphasizing the many opportunities for decent work provided by digital, green, and care economies and highlighting the need to increase productivity at work, develop business incubators and increase productive opportunities for youth as well as the critical role of international cooperation, and called on Member States to address the multiple causes of inequality, foster equal opportunities and invest in universal, gender-responsive national social protection systems. [50] At its forthcoming session, CSocD will focus on social policies to promote social development and social justice to achieve the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda of poverty eradication, and its work will contribute to the preparations for a proposed World Social Summit[51].
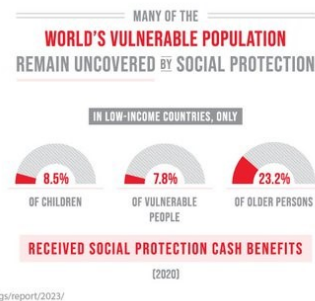
The search for decent work is a primary motivation for human mobility. The Global Refugee Forum 2023 galvanized concrete pledges and commitments from various stakeholders to enhance the self-reliance of refugees, forcibly displaced individuals, stateless people, and host communities. In its flagship report "Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda", **IOM** showed how human mobility can help achieve the SDGs, presenting evidence around six "Acceleration Actions".

In a rapidly transforming world faced with increasingly complex challenges, the importance of **education** becomes ever more critical to equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate and contribute effectively to this dynamic environment while leaving no one behind. The HII on "Transforming Education: Learning to build a better future for all" aims at creating the conditions to enable exactly that, by tackling equity, access and quality of education. Advancing efforts around three foundational pillars, this initiative, led by the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on follow-up to the Transforming Education Summit (TES) as well as **UNESCO** and **UNICEF**, will work to further demonstrated progress delivering on SDG 4 and the TES goals; assist countries in developing larger, more equitable and more efficient educational budgets; and promote whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to education decision-making, including the voices of youth, teachers, and civil society. In addition, UN SDG-Learn, led by **UNITAR**, aims to share relevant learning solutions on sustainable development topics with individuals and organizations. Recognizing that youth are key agents of change in creating a better future, **UNICEF**'s UPSHIFT is unlocking the potential of young people as global social innovators[52]. Moreover, as part of the intersessional thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, the **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)** discussed the implementation of the Commitments of States parties to provide quality education for all, to equip the general public with the values, skills and knowledge necessary to foster a culture of lawfulness. The **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)** discussed the importance

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[50] CSocD's 61st session.

[51] The Secretary-General has proposed the convening of a World Social Summit in 2025, which would coincide with the 30th anniversary of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

[52] UPSHIFT | UNICEF Office of Innovation

of universal access to quality education and of women's empowerment and gender equality for achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.[53] During its forthcoming session, the **CPD** will assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the the 2030 Agenda, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the 1994 Conference.[54]

Local action is integral to achieve human-centered sustainable development. The HII on Local2030 Coalition: Pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030, co-led by **UN-Habitat**, **UNDP** and **FAO**, seeks to accelerate action on the ground across all SDGs by strengthening local and regional Hubs and other multistakeholder platforms around action areas: advocacy, action to facilitate implementation, and monitoring and reporting. The initiative will promote greater financing and targeted investments, as well as specific initiatives focusing on excluded or marginalized populations. The Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local Regional Governments, launched in October 2023 and supported by **UN-Habitat**, will work over a one-year period to advise on matters pertaining to local and regional governments covering a wide range of issues, including sustainable development, gender equality, social inclusion, climate action, the new urban agenda, and human rights. **UN-Habitat** is further supporting sustainable and inclusive cities through initiatives such as MY Neighborhood, Women-led Cities, Climate Action 4 Cities, Quality of Life Initiative and, coordinated together with **ITU** and **UNECE**, the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) Initiative. **ITU** has been furthering work on smart cities through additional initiatives such as the Toolkit on Digital Transformation for People-Oriented Cities and Communities and, in partnership with **UN partners**, the Compendium of practices on innovative financing for smart sustainable cities projects and the Reference framework for integrated management of Smart Sustainable Cities.

f. Strengthening institutions and financing for sustainable development

Institutions can make or break the ability of addressing complex problems and multiple crises. The Global progress report on SDG 16 indicators: A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion shows that progress towards Goal 16 is worryingly slow and insufficient to address some of the most significant challenges societies are facing today. **CEPA** discussed the need for urgent transformation of institutions to enable them to embrace holistic, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to ensure that crisis management does not hinder progress towards the SDGs and that no one is left behind. To this end, CEPA recommended applying the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to public institutions at all levels, increasing support for national and international peer exchanges on building strong institutions for SDG implementation, strengthening budget credibility and embedding commitments to the SDGs in budgetary and financial processes, reinventing public sector workforce training and institutional learning to change mindsets to align with the 2030 Agenda, and managing digitalization of public services in an inclusive, fair, ethical and people-centred manner.[55] **CSW** will discuss in its forthcoming session ways to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.[56]

On its part, the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** highlighted the importance of legislation, policy development, strengthening institutions, capacity-building and international cooperation to foster the implementation of internationally agreed drug policy commitments in a comprehensive stocktaking exercise to address the challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on "Strengthening Our Actions at the

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[53] CPD's 56th session.
[54] CPD's 57th session.
[55] CEPA's 22nd session.
[56] CSW's 68th session.

National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem", in the lead up to the 2024 mid-term review to take place during CND's forthcoming session[57]. In its quest to effectively address the world drug problem, which is complementary to and mutually reinforcing with achieving the SDGs, the CND also adopted resolutions on promoting alternative development, on safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and on strengthening information-sharing to support international scheduling decisions and their implementation[58].

Crime is an impediment to sustainable development; at the same time, achieving sustainable development strongly contributes to effectively prevent and combat crime. The 2023 thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration[59] held by the **CCPCJ** focused on promoting the rule of law[60], and addressed matters such as access to justice and equal treatment before the law, the rule of law and building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions, and effective anti-corruption efforts, which are integral aspects in achieving SDG 16. The CCPCJ adopted resolutions on reducing reoffending, equal access to justice, counter-terrorism, and on preparations for the Fifteen UN Crime Congress, which were subsequently adopted by the GA upon transmission by ECOSOC[61]. The CCPCJ has pioneered work on crimes against the environment, supported by **UNODC** which furthers a coordinated global response to wildlife crime as part of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). Effective legal frameworks and capable institutions are necessary components of environmental rule of law. The main theme of the forthcoming **Crime Congress**, to take place in 2026 in the United Arab Emirates, will be "Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age", highlighting the importance of interlinkages between people, planet, technology, and crime and the criminal justice system.

The latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, led by **UNODC**, provided a snapshot of the trafficking patterns and flows detected during the COVID-19 pandemic and showed a decrease in the number of victims detected globally in 2020 for the first time since data has been collected. **UNODC** is also working to tackle child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist groups, among other initiatives in support of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) which also include facilitating the engagement of non-governmental stakeholders. **ESCWA**'s Arab Risk Monitor combines internationally recognized data, including a number of SDG indicators, with a literature-based framework to unpack the main **drivers of conflict and violence** in the Arab region for data informed policy-making to reduce multi-crisis risk.

In 2022, the number of women and girls killed intentionally was nearly 89,000, the highest recorded in the past 20 years.[62] The HII on Spotlight Initiative: To eliminate violence against women and girls, led by the **Executive Office of the Secretary-General** and coordinated by the **UN Resident Coordinators** in countries, is the largest global initiative to end **violence against women and girls**, rolling out a "whole-of-society" and "whole-of-government" approach and placing this issue at the center of national development priorities through four main pillars: 1) Laws, policies, institutions; 2) Prevention and social norms change; 3) Response and services for survivors and perpetrators' accountability; and 4) Support to civil society and women's movements. Alarmed by the widespread reports of criminalization and killings of Indigenous women as a

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[57] CND's 67th session.

[58] CND's 66th session.

[59] A/RES/76/181

[60] For more information on the CCPCJ thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, see here.

[61] Respectively, A/RES/78/224, A/RES/78/227, A/RES/78/226, and A/RES/78/223.

[62] UNODC and UN Women, 2023, Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide): Global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022, Vienna.

direct result of these women defending their rights and their lands and resources, the **PFII** endorsed general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and called for all Member States to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169). In an effort to provide evidence for sanctioning these crimes more effectively, the **Statistical Commission** endorsed the **international classification of violence against children** and recommended its inclusion in the international family of classifications[63], and took note of the need for methodological work to measure **technology-facilitated violence against women**.[64]

> Violence against women is a horrific violation of human rights, a public health crisis, and a major obstacle to sustainable development.
>
> António Guterres
> United Nations Secretary-General, 25 November 2023

Corruption poses a significant obstacle to sustainable development, as it undermines governance, erodes trust in institutions, diverts resources from essential services, and exacerbates inequality, thereby impeding progress towards the SDGs. The **Statistical Commission** welcomed the statistical framework for measuring corruption as a statistically robust framework to measure the phenomenon of corruption.[65] Given the ambitious nature of the framework and the current limited ability of countries to fully implement it, the Commission encouraged **UNODC** to provide technical support to its implementation, as necessary and subject to the availability of resources, and invited national statistical offices to take an active role and collaborate with other relevant national institutions, civil society and academia in the implementation of the statistical framework.

Corruption is also a major driver of illicit financial flows, facilitating the illegal movement of funds across borders, which drains vital resources from economies and severely hampers efforts to achieve sustainable development and social equity. The **Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (UN Tax Committee)** plays a crucial role in combating illicit financial flows by developing and promoting guidance on international tax standards and policies, which assit countries in developing policies to curb cross-border tax evasion and enhance global financial transparency. Through its work on high-priority issues such as environmental taxation, health taxation, wealth and solidarity taxes, transfer pricing, taxing the digitalized and globalized economy, extractives taxation, and on tax, trade and investment, the Committee is making a key contribution to support developing countries in achieving an integrated approach to strengthening domestic resource mobilization capacity to invest in economic, social and environmental development.[66] **ESCWA**'s interactive, integrated and evidence-based National Financing Toolkits allow policymakers to simulate national SDG financing trajectories, identify untapped sources to bridge SDG-financing gaps and monitor progress. The Joint SDG Fund incubates and capitalizes new windows of financing for the SDGs which provide critical support to UNCTs to produce results at the country level.

The 2023 Development Cooperation Forum High-level meeting discussed emerging issues and ways to scale up high-quality and high-impact development cooperation in the areas of climate resilience, social protection and digital transformation.

The Secretary-General launched a proposal for an **SDG Stimulus** to address both short-term urgencies and long-term needs for sustainable development finance, calling for an annual increase in financing for sustainable development of at least USD 500 billion. The initiative, led by **UNDESA, UNCTAD** and **UNDP**, puts

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[63] Decision 54/112.
[64] Decision 54/104.
[65] Decision 54/120.
[66] UNTC's 25th and 26th sessions.

forward three areas for immediate action: (1) Tackling the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, (2) Scaling up long-term affordable financing for development by USD 500 billion, and (3) Expanding contingency financing to countries in need. In order to achieve its goals, the SDG Stimulus promotes a new international financial architecture that does not exacerbate inequalities and instability, and instead enables just, inclusive and equitable sustainable development for all countries. The Secretary-General promoted the SDG Stimulus at the **Annual Meetings** of the **IMF** and the **World Bank**, outlining three proposed actions for the path ahead: re-channel Special Drawing Rights (SDGs) including to MDBs, address both debt overhang and debt restructuring in developing economies, and mainstream state-contingent debt clauses, following the roadmap proposed in the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance's report on "A World of Debt: A Growing Burden to Global Prosperity". The **CDP** also stressed the need for short-term solutions such as multilateral financing and debt renegotiation while simultaneously establishing long-term solutions to prevent future debt crises and highlighted the importance of a comprehensive financing strategy to address the large scale of investment needed in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising interest rates, high food and energy prices and currency depreciation.[67]
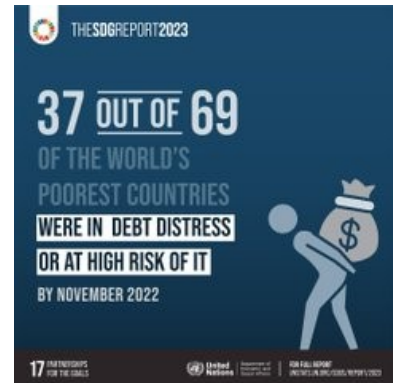
Nevertheless, at the Annual Meetings of the **IMF** and the **WB**, which gathered under the theme "Global Action, Global Impact" and focused on building economic resilience, securing transformational reforms, and reinvigorating global cooperation to "harness the power of multilateralism to the benefit of all", the global debt crisis was viewed as concerning yet not systemic. The WB launched Climate Resilient Debt Clauses, intended to allow countries time to recover after climate disasters or other shocks, and progress in debt restructuring processes under the G20 Common Framework was acknowledged, despite of calls for improvement. Several ongoing challenges remain to be addressed, including private creditor participation in debt relief. In addition, there was an agreement by the Heads of multilateral development banks (MDBs) to strengthen collaboration in five critical areas: 1) Scaling up financing capacity; 2) Boosting joint action on climate; 3) Enhancing country-level collaboration; 4) Strengthening co-financing; and 5) Catalyzing private sector engagement. And the Marrakech Principles for Global Cooperation were presented, aimed at building resilience and expanding opportunities for a better future. The latter were reflected in the new vision and mission of the **WB**, following its Evolution Roadmap launched last year to redefine processes to better support eradication of poverty in a livable world, and the key policy priorities of the **IMF** which is also aiming to address climate change as a macro-critical variable to the economy. While no concrete actions were adopted and key reforms of the international financial architecture have been stalled, there was nonetheless collective agreement that there is a need for adjusting the current international financial system, also echoed in the Bridgetown Initiative 2.0. The momentum for this reform was also reflected in the adoption of GA resolution 78/230, which established an Ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee to develop draft terms of reference for a **United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation** in follow up to resolution 77/244. The Paris Pact for People and the Planet, an outcome of the Summit for a New Global Financial Compact, also called for renewed efforts toward sustainable development, a new financial stimulus to increase resources, improved policy coordination, particularly concerning international taxation, and the reform and revitalization of the international financial system.

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[67] CDP's 25th session.

IV. The Way Forward: Conclusions and recommendations to translate commitments into action in the path towards the Summit of the Future

The Secretary-General told leaders gathered for the high-level week of the 78th session of the General Assembly that "[o]ur world is becoming unhinged and we seem incapable of coming together to respond." The need for concerted international responses has never been more critical. The United Nations was created precisely for moments such as this one, when multilateral cooperation is required to find and implement global solutions to common global challenges.

It is imperative to leverage linkages and build synergies between the interconnected agendas and programmes of action to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. For this, breaking silos and using interlinkages to create multiplier effects and achieve simultaneous gains in several fronts is critical. This is the supreme transformative action needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Global coordination and cooperation are essential in the design and implementation of coherent and integrated decision- and policy-making and achieve the expected impact. To this end, global governance structures will need to rise to the challenges of today and the future. In a fracturing world overwhelmed by crises, there is no alternative to cooperation. We must urgently restore trust and **reinvigorate multilateralism for the 21st century**. A multilateralism that responds effectively to the struggles and needs of people worldwide, and facilitates the fulfillment of their aspirations.

> **Institutions must reflect today's world, not that of 80 years ago.**
>
> António Guterres
> United Nations Secretary-General, 20 January 2024

It is in this context that the **Summit of the Future** will seek to forge a new international consensus on how to deliver multilateral solutions for a better present and to safeguard the future.

In follow-up to the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit and in preparation for the Summit of the Future, the following recommendations are put forward.

The **ECOSOC subsidiary bodies** should:
- Further strengthen the alignment of their agendas and programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda to ensure a coordinated approach to sustainable development.
- Continue collaboration with other subsidiary bodies as well as UN system entities to effectively address cross-cutting issues and provide integrated, in-depth analysis to support evidence-based recommendations on the advancement of the SDGs.
- Support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda through programmatic guidance on technical assistance and capacity building, taking into consideration their respective mandates and international norms.
- Enhance engagement with external partners, including the private sector and civil society, to leverage their unique resources and perspectives.

The **UN system entities** should:
- Also continue to align their programs and initiatives with the 2030 Agenda to ensure a coordinated approach to sustainable development.
- Strengthen collaboration and information sharing across the UN system to enhance synergies and reduce duplication of efforts.

- Strengthen their technical support to Member States towards the implementation of the SDGs, especially those facing significant development challenges, with an emphasis on integration policy approaches and key transitions, including through financing from the UN Joint SDG Fund.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of their activities on the SDGs to continuously improve their effectiveness.

The **Economic and Social Council** should:

- Further develop and promote integrated policies that address the interconnected challenges of poverty, inequality, productive capacity, biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, drawing on the expertise and evidence-based recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities.
- Reorganize its cycle, in particular the timing of its segments and that of the sessions of its subsidiary bodies, in order to facilitate the effective channeling of policy guidance to the work of these bodies, as well as to allow for their full contribution to the work of the Council and the HLPF.
- Spearhead the regular review and assessment of the impact of policies and programmes on the SDGs by the whole ECOSOC system, to provide an effective follow-up to the discussions at the HLPF and in its own meetings, in pursuit of integrated implementation and review.
- Strengthen partnerships with other UN bodies, international organizations and civil society, including the private sector, to enhance policy coherence and effectiveness.
- Advocate for increased investment in sustainable development, particularly in areas most affected by climate change.
- Further facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices among Member States to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Member States should:

- Prioritize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in national policies and plans.
- Strengthen institutions and governance structures to enhance accountability and transparency in SDG implementation.
- Mobilize domestic resources and explore innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable development, including the integration and implementation of the commitments under internationally agreed instruments.
- Shift significant quantities of funding for development activities from tightly earmarked project funding to system-wide pooled funds, such as the UN Joint SDG Fund.
- Foster partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to leverage diverse resources and expertise.
- Agree on and implement measures to reform global governance structures that level the playing field and enable the policies, budgets and investments needed for a better, healthier, more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world.

V. List of abbreviations for the ECOSOC system

Functional commissions

Statistical Commission

Commission on Population and Development **(CPD)**

Commission for Social Development **(CSocD)**

Commission on the Status of Women **(CSW)**

Commission on Narcotic Drugs **(CND)**

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice **(CCPCJ)**

Commission on Science and Technology for Development **(CSTD)**

United Nations Forum on Forests **(UNFF)**

Regional Commissions

Economic Commission for Africa **(ECA)**

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific **(ESCAP)**

Economic Commission for Europe **(ECE)**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean **(ECLAC)**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia **(ESCWA)**

Expert bodies composed of governmental experts

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals **(TDG-GHS)**

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting **(ISAR)**

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names **(UNGEGN)**

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management **(UN-GGIM)**

Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

Committee for Development Policy **(CDP)**

Committee of Experts on Public Administration **(CEPA)**

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters **(UNTC)**

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights **(CESCR)**

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues **(PFII)**

UN Funds and Programmes

United Nations Development Programme **(UNDP)**

United Nations Environment Programme **(UNEP)**

United Nations Population Fund **(UNFPA)**

United Nations Human Settlements Programme **(UN-Habitat)**

United Nations Children's Fund **(UNICEF)**

World Food Programme **(WFP)**

Specialized Agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **(FAO)**

International Civil Aviation Organization **(ICAO)**

International Fund for Agricultural Development **(IFAD)**

International Labour Organization **(ILO)**

International Monetary Fund **(IMF)**

International Maritime Organization **(IMO)**

International Telecommunication Union **(ITU)**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization **(UNESCO)**

United Nations Industrial Development Organization **(UNIDO)**

Universal Postal Union **(UPU)**

World Bank Group **(WB)**

World Health Organization **(WHO)**

World Intellectual Property Organization **(WIPO)**

World Meteorological Organization **(WMO)**

World Tourism Organization **(UNWTO)**

Other Entities

International Organization for Migration **(IOM)**

International Trade Centre **(ITC)**

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS **(UNAIDS)**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees **(UNHCR)**

United Nations Capital Development Fund **(UNCDF)**

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development **(UNCTAD)**

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat **(CBD)**

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification **(UNCCD)**

United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women **(UN WOMEN)**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat **(UNFCCC)**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research **(UNITAR)**

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development **(UNRISD)**

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction **(UNDRR)**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime **(UNODC)**

United Nations Office for Project Services **(UNOPS)**

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East **(UNRWA)**

United Nations System Staff College **(UNSSC)**

United Nations University **(UNU)**

World Trade Organization **(WTO)**

VI.   Resources

- [Infographics of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies](#)
- [Themes of sessions of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies during the 2024 session of the Council](#)
- [Action taken by the Council on recommendations made by its subsidiary bodies](#)
- [UN System SDG Implementation Database](#)