

## 2025 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

### Informal note by the Secretariat

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#### 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 2025 Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It provides an integrated policy analysis of the work of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system entities in support of the accelerated implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). It also offers recommendations on the implementation of the [2024 Ministerial Declaration](#) of the Council and the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), including considerations on lessons learned from the HLPF thematic and voluntary national reviews. Furthermore, it reflects on the

ECOSOC system's contributions<sup>1</sup> to forthcoming intergovernmental processes in 2025 and the Council's role in the implementation of the outcomes from the [Summit of the Future](#).

The informal note draws upon the breadth of knowledge and expertise of the [ECOSOC subsidiary bodies](#),<sup>2</sup> as well as on the UN system entities' activities and initiatives as reflected in the [UN System SDG Implementation online database](#).<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, through various interagency mechanisms such as 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 a more integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As we approach 10 years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, [the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#) indicates that progress towards the SDGs has come to a halt or has been reversed on several fronts. Among the assessable targets, only 17 per cent shows progress sufficient for achievement by 2030. This alarming data calls for immediate action and increased international coordination which was addressed at the 2024 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), emphasizing the need for transformative and innovative solutions, enhancing implementation methods, reforming international financial institutions, and fostering partnerships among all stakeholders to advance the SDGs by 2030.

In September 2024, the [Summit of the Future](#) brought together Member States to address today's challenges and identify future opportunities to strengthen the multilateral system and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. It culminated in the adoption of the [Pact for the Future](#) which includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. The [Pact for the Future](#) aims to strengthen international cooperation and the multilateral system with the UN at its core, while focusing on peaceful conflict resolution, sustainable development, ethical technology use and inclusive governance. The Pact for the Future solidified clear commitments and outlined concrete deliverables across a wide range of issues, with a strong focus leveraging technology for the benefit of humanity, advancing human rights, promoting gender equality, and achieving sustainable development.

The world is at a critical crossroad. In the face of great transformation and complex challenges, urgency to advance coordinated, global solutions to achieve the Goals and vision of the 2030 Agenda is mounting. The increased number of armed conflicts, coupled with increasing impacts of climate change, ongoing poverty, food insecurity and a growing financing gap, create significant challenges to the achievement of the SDGs. ECOSOC has been actively addressing these challenges and creating opportunities for further discussions and understanding as well as advancing viable solutions through its various segments, forums and special meetings, as well as the work of its subsidiary machinery.

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<sup>1</sup> The [ECOSOC system](#) comprises 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 on matters under the purview of the Council, including specialized agencies.

<sup>2</sup> [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](#).

<sup>3</sup> 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](#)).

## II. Exploring transformative solutions to foster sustainability and build an inclusive and prosperous future for all

**In today's interconnected world, achieving long-term sustainability is vital.** Climate change, social issues, and economic opportunities are deeply interlinked, and real progress toward the SDGs requires a holistic approach that addresses these effectively. The urgency of this task is underscored by the alarming milestone reached in **2024**, which **marks the tenth consecutive year of record-breaking warmth**. For the first time, the global average temperature exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.<sup>4</sup> This trend highlights the intensifying risk posed by climate change, as rising emissions drive extreme weather events, disrupt ecosystems, and threaten the livelihoods of communities worldwide. Increasingly frequent and severe climate-induced disasters have also led to a **significant rise in internal displacement**, further compounding social and economic vulnerabilities. Moreover, in 2024 **ocean warming** played a key role in record high temperatures, with the ocean absorbing 90 per cent of excess heat from global warming. According to the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**'s [State of the Ocean Report](#), the ocean is now warming twice the rate it did twenty years ago, with an average increase of 1.45°C. Oceans are vital for biodiversity and the well-being of coastal communities; however, they face mounting pressures from eutrophication, acidification, and declining fish stocks, threatening marine ecosystems and livelihoods.<sup>5</sup>

The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** is developing a [General Comment](#) on **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development** addressing the challenges of respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of environmental sustainability. The Secretary-General issued a [report](#) to explore the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights. The President of the General Assembly (PGA) convened in April 2024 the first-ever [Sustainability Week](#) to advance solutions for building a sustainable future. The General Assembly also declared [2025-2034 as the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences](#) to promote awareness and global cooperation to address melting glaciers and cryospheric changes.

The [2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#) and the [Pact for the Future](#) emphasized the need to urgently focus on **mitigation and adaptation to climate change** to address the continued growth in greenhouse gas emissions and the increasing frequency, intensity and scale of the adverse impacts of climate change. At the 29<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference ([COP29](#)) governments agreed on a **new climate finance goal of USD 300 billion annually by 2035** and an aspirational target of USD 1.3 trillion. A breakthrough was also achieved with the finalization of **rules for international, high-integrity government-backed carbon markets**, while emphasis was placed on scaling adaptation finance, particularly through concessional finance and mobilizing private investment. The **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** undertook its midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests, adopted a resolution to guide the work of the International Arrangement on Forests until 2030 in ten areas for action, its programme of work for 2025-2028, and a Declaration committing to take urgent and accelerated actions to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and calling for strengthening mobilization of new and additional

<sup>4</sup> [WMO News, 10 January 2025](#)

<sup>5</sup> [The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf](#)

resources, in particular for developing countries. Moreover, the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([COP16](#)) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) brought together nations to focus on **protecting biodiversity** in the face of climate threats. This Conference resulted in the establishment of a **permanent advisory body for Indigenous Peoples** providing them with an expanded role in protecting biodiversity, as well as progress on a new biodiversity monitoring framework. The [United Nations Environmental Programme \(UNEP\)](#)'s [Global Environmental Outlook](#) and the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#)'s [State of the Climate report](#) provided crucial data to inform the discussions.

The [Pact for the Future](#) also emphasized the need to take urgent action to **improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystem**, as well as sustainably use and restore the seas. The [2024 Ocean Decade Conference](#), co-organized by [UNESCO](#) and Spain, focused on strengthening enabling elements like investment and partnerships and guiding future actions to ensure the sustainable management of ocean resources, and emphasized the importance of addressing critical knowledge gaps in ocean science. The [9<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference](#), hosted by Greece, received 471 commitments worth USD 11 billion from global actors to advance solutions on marine protected areas, sustainable “blue economies”, climate change, maritime security, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution. In the meantime, preparations are underway for the [2025 UN Ocean Conference](#), co-hosted by Costa Rica and France and taking place in Nice in June 2025, under the overarching theme “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”.

**UN bodies and entities are increasing efforts to address the impacts of climate change and protect the ocean.** At the 2024 HLPF, [UN DESA](#) and the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) launched the ["Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies,"](#) a key tool for aligning climate action with SDG progress, and the [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean \(ECLAC\)](#) coordinated a high-level event focusing on critical energy transition minerals to accelerate SDG achievement. The [Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#)'s [Carbon Neutrality Toolkit](#) aids countries in developing carbon neutral energy systems by 2050, while the [Food and Agricultural Organization \(FAO\)](#)'s Voluntary Code of Conduct on Sustainable Use and Management of Plastics in Agriculture (VCoC), provides comprehensive guidelines for sustainable plastics management in agrifood systems. Meanwhile, [WMO](#)'s [Developing the Climate Science Information for Climate Action](#) provides access to new climate information, tools and guidance to develop the scientific basis for climate action decisions, particularly for climate adaptation and resilience projects. The [Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change](#), launched by Brazil, the [UN Secretariat](#) and [UNESCO](#), also speaks to this end, aiming to strengthen support for urgent climate action. The [International Trade Center \(ITC\)](#)'s [Sustainability Gateway](#) assists businesses improve their sustainability practices and promote transparency in global supply chains, while the [United Nations University \(UNU\)](#)'s [Capacity Building Academy](#) enhance the skills and knowledge of stakeholders involved in climate action. The [Statistical Commission](#) has pushed for the adoption of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, which supports national and international climate data monitoring. Collaboration with the [UNFCCC](#) and national authorities is critical for improving data integration into climate policies. The [United Nations Research Institute for Social Development \(UNRISD\)](#)'s [water indicator](#) enables policymakers to monitor and address water access and management challenges, and ensure resilience against climate-induced water stress. The [Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](#) has emphasized the need to address the insurance gaps resulting from climate-related disasters, urging increased collaboration

between governments and the insurance industry, paired with accelerated regulation and reform, to better mitigate the risks associated with climate change. The [World Tourism Organization \(UNWTO\)](#) released the [Policy Guidance to Support Climate Action by National Tourism Administrations](#) and, for the first time, at [COP29 a Tourism Day and initiative were included in the Action Agenda](#).

**Ocean acidification remains a significant concern**, and the [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network](#) – which counts the [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#), [UNESCO](#) and [WMO](#) as partners – continues to advance research on ocean acidification and its impact on marine ecosystems. Ocean acidification, as well as rising sea levels, threaten marine and coastal ecosystems. The [IAEA](#) is applying nuclear and isotopic techniques to investigate past changes and the impacts of ocean acidification on marine organisms. To contribute to the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, [FAO](#) has developed the [Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries \(EAF\) Legal Diagnostic Tool](#) to assist countries reform fisheries legislation to better manage marine ecosystems and protect biodiversity, while its [GloLitter Initiative](#) seeks to reduce marine pollution. The [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)'s [Global Fund for Coral Reefs](#) is supporting sustainable business to enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystems, economies, and communities, while the [United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs \(UNOOSA\)](#) promotes, through its [Space4Water](#) initiative, the use of space technology to monitor ocean conditions. The [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#) is leading six [Working Groups in the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection \(GESAMP\)](#), which focus on evaluating environmental hazards of harmful substances, reviewing ballast water management systems, assessing potential environmental and societal impacts of marine geoengineering activities, advising on environmental impacts of waste originating from mining operations, providing better understanding of sea-based sources of marine litter, as well as life cycle GHG intensity of marine fuels.

**It is essential to include the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples to advance climate action and protect the ocean.** Preserving cultural and knowledge diversity, including Indigenous knowledge, plays a critical role in addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change and the protection of land and ocean ecosystems. The [Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(PFII\)](#) highlighted the urgent need to safeguard Indigenous languages and cultural heritage as critical components of self-determination, calling for stronger mechanisms during the [International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#). The [PFII](#) also called for stronger legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and autonomy, urging Member States to integrate Indigenous knowledge into conservation and development policies, while also raising concerns about the detrimental effects of the extractive industries and green energy projects on Indigenous communities and emphasizing the need for free, prior and informed consent. The [United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names \(UNGEGN\)](#) continued to promote inclusive, evidence-based approaches to standardizing geographical names to ensure the recognition and preservation of diverse cultural identities, which play a central role in fostering resilience and driving sustainable development. [UNWTO](#) and the World Indigenous Tourism Alliance are developing a compendium of good practices in indigenous leadership in tourism development focusing on Asia and the Pacific countries, as a follow-up of the [Compendium of Good Practices in Indigenous Tourism – Regional Focus on the Americas](#), published in 2023.

**It is also essential to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls.** The [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) emphasized the need for gender-responsive climate policies that recognize the unique vulnerabilities of women and girls, particularly in the face of environmental disasters, as well as to leverage their critical role in driving climate action and fostering resilience. The [United](#)

**Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)** continued to promote the integration of gender considerations in COP discussions, ensuring that women's and girls' rights influence policies on biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Children are disproportionately impacted by climate change and effects on their development, health and education can be lifelong and irreversible. This is even more worrisome as climate crises are expected to become more widespread between 2050-2059, with eight times as many children exposed to extreme heatwaves, and three times as many exposed to extreme river floods, compared to the 2000s.<sup>6</sup> A major consequence of environmental crises is **internal displacement**, as these disrupt communities, livelihoods and access to essential resources, further deepening pre-existing gender inequalities. The [Climate Mobility Innovation Lab](#) (CMIL) supported by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** promotes innovation, capacity building, and community engagement to help communities adapt to climate change and address migration and displacement challenges. **UNRISD's Climate and Care Initiative** underscores the interconnectedness of the care crisis and climate change, advocating for policies that address both challenges together and promote gender-responsive care systems.

By fostering synergies across climate action, gender equality, human rights, and sustainable resource management, UN bodies and entities aim to create a more resilient and inclusive future for all. The ongoing work to address climate change, protect oceans and ensure equitable development for vulnerable populations underscores the interconnected nature of the SDGs and the need for integrated approaches to achieving long-term sustainability.

### III. Investing in healthy, inclusive and resilient societies to leave no one behind

**The pledge to leave no one behind lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.** The [2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#) and the [Pact for the Future](#) reaffirm commitments to prevent reversals into poverty, promote universal health and social protection access, adopt gender-focused solutions, realize human rights for all and strengthen international cooperation, including on migration. The [Pact of the Future](#) notes that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting and protecting human rights are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Yet, currently 9 per cent of the world's population live in **extreme poverty** and, without accelerated action, an estimated 6.9 per cent will remain so by 2030.<sup>7</sup> **Social protection** is a distant reality for almost 4 billion people and, where access exists, coverage remain inadequate.<sup>8</sup> Agrifood systems are similarly strained: one in 11 people globally faces **hunger**, despite sufficient food production. Simultaneously, the percentage of food lost globally per year is estimated at 13.2 percent and 1.05 billion tons of food are wasted annually.<sup>9</sup> Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty and food insecurity, and women carry the unfair burden of unpaid or underpaid domestic and care work. Care work is the bedrock of the economy and yet it is not measured, rendering women's labour invisible. These aspects further exacerbate **gender**

<sup>6</sup> [State of the World's Children report 2024.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2024.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) Report 2024, Tracking Progress on Food and Agriculture-related SDG Indicators 2023 and Food Waste Index Report 2024.](#)

**inequalities.** Meanwhile, progress on gender equality is stalling. At current rates, achieving parity in public life will require another 176 years.<sup>10</sup>

**Addressing multidimensional poverty requires comprehensive policy approaches that promote synergies across SDGs.** These include targeted measures such as pro-poor social investment, universal health and social protection coverage, focusing on key investment in early infancy, building productive capacity for sustainable development, strengthening international cooperation, and enhancing respect for human rights. Gender-transformative social protection systems<sup>11</sup> can shift social norms and enhance women's and girls' access, agency and dignity. Achieving universal coverage of social protection will, nonetheless, require closing a significant financing gap. ECOSOC subsidiary bodies have driven this agenda forward. The **PFI** emphasized culturally appropriate healthcare, while the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** adopted a [High-level Declaration](#) and launched the [Pledge4Action](#) initiative to address the world drug problem through a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach, with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and the well-being of all humanity. Similarly, the **Commission for Social Development (CSocD)** adopted a [resolution](#) on fostering social justice and inclusive development to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication. The **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)** highlighted the implications of four megatrends (population growth, population ageing, migration and urbanization) and stressed the need to integrate these into national development policies and strategies.

Upcoming milestones, such as the [4th International Conference on Financing for Development \(FfD4\)](#) and the [Second World Summit for Social Development](#) in 2025, offer opportunities to **strengthen global consensus on eradicating poverty and inequality.** Additionally, the ECOSOC system can play a critical role in supporting countries to address **antimicrobial resistance** through the **One Health approach**, aligned with the [2024 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance](#), which is crucial for enhancing prevention, preparedness, and resilience against future shocks. The **Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TDG-GHS)** emphasized the urgent need for global implementation of its recommendations and harmonized provisions, recognizing their critical impact on protecting both human health and the environment. UN system policy advice and activities aim to empower the most vulnerable. For example, dialogues on [migration and human mobility](#) were held and [innovative facility](#) was launched in 2024 to foster transformative solutions to migration. The Every Women Every Newborn Everywhere<sup>12</sup>, launched in 2024, aim to end preventable neonatal mortality and stillbirths. The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** is applying the [Human rights economy](#) approach to redress the root causes and structural barriers to equality, justice and sustainability by prioritizing investment in economic, social and cultural rights across its programming. **UNWTO's** guidelines on [how to apply ISO standard on accessible tourism](#) promote universal, safe and dignified access of people with disabilities to tourism infrastructure and services globally.

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<sup>10</sup> [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2024](#) provides guidance on how to design, deliver and finance social protection to address the diverse needs of women and girls.

<sup>12</sup> Website forthcoming

The transition to an equitable, resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development. This includes policies that facilitate evidence-based decision-making across food security, nutrition, poverty, health, gender, human rights, and the environment,<sup>13</sup> while engaging a wide range of stakeholders. Smart technologies and circular agriculture innovations can transform agrifood systems by providing affordable, diverse nutrition. Closing the gender gap in farm productivity and wages could increase global GDP by 1 per cent (or nearly \$1 trillion).<sup>14</sup> However, the financing architecture remains fragmented, with unclear funding needs for food security and nutrition.<sup>15</sup>

The [2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#) and the [Pact for the Future](#) emphasized **equitable, resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems, supported by resilient ecosystems and innovations**, to meet the nutritional needs of those living in vulnerable situations. The [Committee on World Food Security](#) advanced policy recommendations on inclusive agrifood systems, highlighting the importance of data and innovation in shaping food security and nutrition policy.<sup>16</sup> In response, **FAO** strengthened the collection and use of food security and nutrition data, including by providing updates to the [Statistical Commission](#). This led to the approval of a new agenda item on food security and nutrition statistics at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commissions. Moreover, efforts to meet children’s nutritional needs include the [School Meals Coalition](#), food-based regulations to protect children’s diet<sup>17</sup>, the [First Foods Africa initiative](#) and [UNICEF’s Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan](#). The [Making Food Systems Work for Women and Girls Coalition](#)’s goal is to ensure that agrifood systems transform equitably and inclusively. In March 2024, the Secretary-General appointed 22 global leaders to spearhead improvement in nutrition for all, through the [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\)](#) movement.<sup>18</sup>

**Given the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity, food security and nutrition, solutions must be integrated and multi-sectoral.** The UN is pursuing a multi-pronged approach to enhance agrifood systems resilience, such as through [regenerative and resilient agriculture](#), [systematically collecting data on agricultural losses and damages](#), developing [holistic frameworks](#) connecting structural drivers, enablers and policy entry points, and advancing circular solutions to [reduce food waste](#). However, these efforts are yet to be fully coordinated across UN entities. The [Convergence Initiative](#), launched by the Deputy Secretary-General at COP28, focuses on aligning agrifood systems transformation with climate action. The [UN Food Systems Coordination Hub](#) has begun its pilot phase, with the aim of reaching 20 countries by COP30. The transformation of agrifood systems can be further accelerated by strengthening the **integration of science and policy, data, innovation and investment**.<sup>19</sup> The [Science, Technology, and Innovation platform](#) can facilitate evidence-based innovations in policymaking and agrifood investments. Other initiatives focus on advancing the use of other space technologies, particularly [Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Earth](#)

<sup>13</sup> See [UNDP White Paper: Supporting Food Systems Transformation Towards Sustainability and Resilience](#)

<sup>14</sup> [The Gender Snapshot 2024](#).

<sup>15</sup> [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) Report 2024](#).

<sup>16</sup> The Committee on World Food Security also urged to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities and foster greater policy coherence among gender and food security and nutrition agendas.

<sup>17</sup> [UNICEF Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030](#).

<sup>18</sup> [Secretary-General Appoints Global Leaders to Spearhead Fight against Malnutrition at Critical Moment for Food, Nutrition Security | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](#).

<sup>19</sup> FAO Council and Technical Committees.



[observation](#), to enhance agricultural developments and food security, and using nuclear technologies<sup>20</sup> to support sustainable agricultural practices.

**Building healthy, inclusive and resilient societies requires changing biased social norms and harmful practices to enhance women’s leadership in political, economic and public life.** Women contribute significantly to all sectors, particularly agriculture, the informal economy and care work. Recognizing that the full, safe, equal, and meaningful participation and representation of women in political and economic life is essential for achieving the SDGs, the [Pact for the Future](#) commits to bold, transformative actions. These include removing legal, social and economic barriers to gender equality, taking targeted actions to eradicate all forms of violence and harassment against women and girls, and increasing investments to close the gender gap, particularly in the care and support economy. These same commitments were reflected in the [2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#). The [30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action \(Beijing+30\)](#) will provide a pivotal moment to advance efforts for gender equality and women’s empowerment. **UN Women** has identified [six priority areas](#) for actions and investments, including addressing violence against women, accelerating gender parity in leadership, closing the digital gender gap and transforming the care economy – all of which align with [the 2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#).<sup>21</sup> In preparation for Beijing+30, the regional commissions held reviews to build regional consensus on priority actions. The 69<sup>th</sup> session of **CSW** will focus on the review of Beijing+30 and other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies will also maintain momentum, including through the [2025 HLPF](#) and the [WSIS-Beijing+30 Common Action Agenda for Bridging Gender Digital Divide](#).<sup>22</sup> The [Pact for the Future](#) also requested the Council to explore options, in the context of the review of Beijing+30, to revitalize the **CSW** to ensure that the Commission is fit for purpose in promoting and protecting the lives of women and girls.

UN bodies and entities have advanced **efforts to promote gender equality**, including by enhancing gender statistics and developing frameworks for measuring unpaid domestic and care work (**Statistical Commission**), integrating the population dynamics into national development policies (**CPD**), improving digital literacy as a means of prevention of trafficking in persons (**Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)**) and placing gender equality and women’s empowerment at the heart of social policies to foster inclusive and just societies (**CSocD**). The **CSW** addressed the feminization of poverty and the need for fully financed inclusive policies tailored to the most vulnerable. Moreover, UN entities are collaborating through **innovative initiatives** to eliminate gender disparities across the SDGs, as exemplified by the [Spotlight Initiative](#), which tackles gender-based violence, and the [Stand for Her Land](#) initiative, which strengthens women’s land rights and drive a global movement. These are complemented by tools that support women’s economic and physical autonomy such as **FAO**’s work reporting on women’s land rights through SDG 5 indicators on its [SDG Indicators Data Portal](#), **ITC**’s [SheTrades initiative](#), and **UN-Habitat**’s [Training Guide to Advance Women’s Housing, Land, and Property Rights](#). To strengthen global health, and following the [General Assembly resolution on Space and Global Health](#) and the launch of the **UNOOSA**’s [long-](#)

<sup>20</sup> For example, [Atoms4Food](#) and [Joint Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture](#)

<sup>21</sup> The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) [General recommendation No. 40](#) also provides guidance on reaching equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems in all sectors and adopts the target of “parity by 2030”, fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

<sup>22</sup> This is an initiative to establish a common action agenda that addresses the digital gender gap by building on the WSIS Action Lines and the commitments in the Beijing Declaration.

[term strategy on space and global health for the period 2025–2035](#), [UNOOSA](#) and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) joined forces to organize a series of [Regional Conferences on Space Technology for Advancing Global Health](#).

UN entities work on **care systems** is not new; however, it is only recently that the care agenda has gained the necessary attention in the intergovernmental arena to drive transformation in care systems, including recognizing unpaid care work within economic frameworks and developing legal frameworks for care policies. This was reflected in a recent [ECOSOC resolution](#) recommended by [CSocD](#), which led to a UN system policy paper on [Transforming Care Systems](#), emphasizing the importance of care systems for gender equality, human rights and sustainable development, which was launched at the [ECOSOC's Special Meeting on Care and Support Systems](#) in July 2024. Early efforts to address unpaid care work include the joint programme "[Unpaid Care, Disability and Gender Transformative Approach](#)", aimed at influencing national care and support systems. Biased social norms and lack of public investments, often seen as commonplace, have disproportionately burdened women with unpaid care work. The care economy, however, has significant multiplier effects across all SDGs. While demographic change is inevitable, stronger efforts can improve healthcare quality and access to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and healthy diets to promote health and healthy ageing.<sup>23</sup> Transforming the care economy into a productive sector and changing societal mindsets are critical for a prosperous economy and healthy ageing.

#### IV. Creating employment and decent work opportunities for all

**While the global unemployment rate was at a historic low of 5 per cent in 2023, decent work remain elusive for many**, with more than 2 billion workers or 58 per cent of the global workforce are employed in informal jobs, often characterized by low wages, limited security and lack of social protection.<sup>24</sup> The challenges are stark for young people: one in five are not in employment, education or training, and two thirds are women.<sup>25</sup> **Education and digital skills are key to closing this gap.** As most jobs now require digital literacy, equitable access to quality education and targeted digital upskilling are essential. Yet, 250 million children remain out of school. A 1 percentage point decrease in this figure could add \$470 billion to annual global labour income.<sup>26</sup> With the youth population projected to reach 1.4 billion by 2054<sup>27</sup>, mostly in developing countries, preparing young people for formal employment is critical to economic resilience and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

**Access to decent jobs and economic opportunities, crucial to eradicating poverty, can be achieved through investments in human capital, as well as expanding active labour market policies for those who are most vulnerable and closing the gender gap.** The [2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#) and the [Pact for the Future](#) underscore a human-centered approach to the future of work, with commitments to inclusive economic growth, decent work for all and bridging the digital divides through enhanced infrastructure and digital literacy, as well as supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. The [Pact](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Demographic change and sustainability](#).

<sup>24</sup> [2024 SDG Progress Report](#).

<sup>25</sup> [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024](#).

<sup>26</sup> [The Gender Snapshot 2024](#).

<sup>27</sup> [World Population Prospects 2024](#).

[for the Future](#) also emphasizes the importance of investing in young people, ensuring access to quality education and equipping them with the skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. Complementing these, the [Global Digital Compact](#) highlights the need for a thriving digital economy that respects human rights, while the [Declaration on Future Generations](#) prioritizes the needs of those yet to come. Together, these frameworks chart a path to empower individuals, foster sustainable development, and secure a just future for all.

**UN bodies and entities are collectively advancing work to promote sustainable, inclusive economic growth, employment, and decent work for all.** In 2024, the [ECOSOC Special Meeting on the Future of Work](#) discussed the urgency of creating decent jobs to address poverty and inequalities, highlighting the opportunities and limitations of technological advances and digitalization as well as their impacts on the labour market. **UNIDO's** [2024 Industrial Development Report](#) also highlights industry's multiplier effect on employment and economic growth, given that every job in manufacturing creates on average 2.2 jobs in other sectors of the economy. The **CSW** called for alignment with the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** standards and urged Member States to support women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and equal workplace opportunities, while the **CSocD** emphasized digital technologies as key drivers for job creation, advocating for upskilling and closing of digital divides. In parallel, the **CND** highlighted the role of alternative development programs to support populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other drug-related crime challenges. The [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#), now active in 17 pathfinder countries, represents a unified UN response to address poverty, income inequality, informal employment and social protection gaps, while supporting people through transitions in the face of new and emerging challenges. Similarly, the [UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy](#) works to mainstream social and solidarity economy into global development efforts, enhancing decent work and access to social services, contributing to the achievement and localization of the SDGs. Meanwhile, **UNRISD's** [Life Economies](#) approach offers a framework to create synergies among alternative economic approaches such as the [Social and Solidarity](#), Circular Economy, and Care Economy.

**As emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) become ubiquitous, the risks associated with their use are amplified by disparities in access to AI technologies**, which threaten to exacerbate inequalities, leaving developing countries and marginalized communities at a disadvantage. The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (**CEPA**) emphasized the ethical and operational responsibilities of governments as both regulators and users of AI and called for guiding principles and policy priorities for the regulation and use of AI by the public sector to ensure that AI and digital tools are leveraged inclusively to advance the 2030 Agenda, balancing innovation with safeguards against ethical and societal risks. **UNIDO's** [Bridging the AI Divide: Empowering Developing Countries through Manufacturing](#) provided actionable strategies for developing economies to build their own AI ecosystems so to bridge the AI gap, focusing on skills development, infrastructure investment and collaboration, while **UNU's** Macau AI Conference 2024 on [AI for All: Bridging Divides, Building a Sustainable Future Path](#) discussed AI across different angles, including recommendations on the use of synthetic data to train AI models, and launched the [UNU Global AI Network](#). **CSW** discussed the potential of AI and digital technologies for advancing gender equality while addressing risks of gender bias and exclusion in their development and application, and the **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)** called for gender-responsive approaches in science, technology and

innovation (STI) policies and actions to reduce disparities in access and participation, including on AI. Meanwhile, [UNIDO's Global Alliance on AI for Industry and Manufacturing](#) and [Alliance for I4.0 and Smart Manufacturing in Africa](#) were created to unlock the potential of Industry 4.0 and promote responsible and equitable use of AI. Furthermore, increasing productive capacities in developing countries and their participation in the global value chain, including by strengthening micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) is vital for generating employment opportunities. MSMEs, which account for over 70 percent of global employment, are engines of economic growth. Initiatives such as [Alliances for Action](#), [One Trade Africa](#), [SME Trade Academy](#) and [eComConnect](#) Hub, led by [ITC](#), aim to enhance MSME competitiveness, support businesses in leveraging e-commerce, empower technology entrepreneurs, and build sustainable, inclusive, and resilient value chain alliances. [UNECE's "Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the digital and data transformation in the electricity sector"](#) explores the potential of AI to meet the trilemma of sustainable, affordable and secure energy as well as the digital transition as it applies to the electricity sector of the energy value chain.

**Robust, inclusive digital infrastructure lays the essential groundwork for equitable digital progress**, ensuring that no one is left behind without connectivity and access to critical digital services. However, there are still 700 million people living without electricity<sup>28</sup> and 2.6 billion without connectivity.<sup>29</sup> In some countries these needs could exceed US\$ 120 billion to achieve maximum national connectivity coverage and impact, which would require telecommunications service operators to increase their annual capital expenditures by approximately 40%<sup>30</sup>. The [CSTD](#) called for tackling gaps in infrastructure and digital equity and strengthening technical support and capacity-building programs, especially for the least developed countries and small island developing states, to promote their inclusion in the digital and knowledge economies. **Efforts to expand and improve connectivity and bridge the digital divides** have become a cornerstone of the global agenda. Coalitions like [Partner2Connect](#) are driving sustainable digital transformation globally, prioritizing the hardest-to-connect communities, including those in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). P2C partners, government officials, and private and civil society stakeholders explored partnerships for [advancing digital connectivity in SIDS](#) in an event organized ahead of the [SIDS4 Conference](#) in May 2024 by the [United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States \(OHRLLS\)](#), in collaboration with the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#) and Microsoft reinforcing efforts to integrate these regions into the global digital landscape. Similarly, the [Giga initiative](#) continues to work towards achieving universal, inclusive school connectivity. On its part, [UNDP](#) expanded its support on digital public infrastructure to 25 countries and launched the [Universal DPI Safeguards Framework](#), a multi-stakeholder initiative designed to promote the safe and inclusive adoption of digital public infrastructure worldwide.

**UN bodies and entities are also advancing efforts to expand access to quality and inclusive education and improve digital literacy, skills and capacities.** In 2024, the [Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean](#) established a regional reference framework to guide public

<sup>28</sup> [Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2024](#).

<sup>29</sup> [ITU Facts and Figures 2024](#).

<sup>30</sup> ECLAC, [The Challenge of Accelerating the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Transitions towards Sustainability](#) (LC/FDS.7/3), Santiago, 2024.

policies for transforming education. Meanwhile, [UNESCO](#) launched a [Call to Action](#) to dismantle gender stereotypes and create pathways for girls in science, while the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)'s [15by30 Global Pledge](#) addresses gaps in higher education for emergency coordination and response. In addition, [IMO](#)'s [SMART-C Women](#) initiative empowers women professionals with environmental and digital technologies, addressing gender disparities in the male-dominated maritime sector. Moreover, [ITU](#) launched the [AI Skills Coalition](#), a movement aiming at democratizing AI learning, bridging the global AI skills gap, fostering inclusivity and creating global partnerships on AI skills development. The Coalition was launched at the [ITU Digital Skills Forum](#), which also featured the [ITU Digital Skills Toolkit](#) offering a comprehensive guide to support policymakers and other stakeholders in creating effective national digital skills strategies and policies. Additionally, the [Green Jobs for Youth Pact](#) and [GO4SDDGs](#) of [UNEP](#) are tackling the green skills gap, building capacity for young entrepreneurs and advancing a just transition to a low carbon, circular economy, while [UNICEF](#)'s [Generation Unlimited](#) initiative is equipping young people with relevant skills and support them in their transition from learning-to-earning.<sup>31</sup>

**To boost youth employment, policies must support the transition of young people into productive employment, address skills mismatches by increasing education and training, and promote entrepreneurship and innovation.** Education systems must be holistic, system-oriented and human centered, embracing technological transition by fostering lifelong learning and reskilling, integrating sustainability principles, and enhancing access in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for young women and girls to drive economic development. To support young people's transition into decent jobs, the [2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum](#) highlighted strategies for job creation, skill development, and an inclusive future of work, while the [CSTD](#) focused on improving higher education and promoting innovation. The [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#)'s [Skills Monitor](#) targets youth, addressing labour market mismatches, promoting job creation, and expanding employment opportunities, while the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#)'s [Generation Justice \(GenJust\)](#) initiative aims to amplify and include youth voices in the lead-up to the [15<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#). Meanwhile, [FAO](#), in partnership with [UNESCO](#) and the [United Nations Institute for Training and Research \(UNITAR\)](#) launched the [Facility for Action for Climate Empowerment to achieve Nationally Determined Contributions \(FACE-NDC\)](#) to strengthen formal and non-formal education to empower countries in meeting their climate goals, while [ITC](#)'s [YE! Community](#) provides resources, training and networking for young entrepreneurs around the world.

**To fully harness the benefits of digital progress, it is critical to ensure meaningful and safe digital spaces free of discrimination and hate and that uphold human rights.** The [19<sup>th</sup> Internet Governance Forum](#) focused on "[advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age](#)" and discussed ways to empower all people and drive genuine inclusion of all communities in shaping its development while ensuring everyone's rights can be respected both online and offline. [IOM](#) has continued to address risks and harms caused by lack of access to and malicious use of new technologies faced by migrant people, including through the [iDiaspora platform](#) and the [Family Assistance Programme](#). [OHCHR](#)'s Innovation & Analytics Hub leverages digital transformation, data and analytics, innovation and behavioral science to unlock the full potential of human rights data and create sustainable solutions that enhance human rights promotion and protection while advancing the 2030

<sup>31</sup> See also Generation Unlimited's "[Time to Act: Preparing Youth for Work in an AI-Powered World](#)".

Agenda. These are complemented with tools such as the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#)'s [A Safe Digital Future](#) which provides recommendations for future-proofing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)'s Programme of Action in the face of rapidly emerging digital technologies and [OHCHR](#)'s practical recommendations for lawmakers, standard setters, businesses and civil society on how to leverage the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) to [advance responsible development and deployment of Generative AI](#), as part of the [B-Tech project](#) delivering practical guidance and public policy recommendations to realize a rights-based approach to the development, application and governance of digital technologies. The [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) and [UNU](#) published a report on "[Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development: Evidence from Asia-Pacific cities](#)". At the end of 2024, the GA [adopted](#) a **new convention to prevent and combat cybercrime** more efficiently and effectively, including by strengthening international cooperation and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building support, particularly for developing countries. Together, these efforts not only help to bridge the digital divides but also uphold a digital space that respects and promotes human rights.

## V. Harnessing data, science, technology and innovation to advance digital progress

Over the past year, the global community has witnessed an **unprecedented acceleration in digital innovation**, driven by transformative advances in the development and adoption of AI and other emerging technologies. The rapid development and adoption of these technologies can help drive innovation in key sectors like agriculture, health and finance, and spur economic growth. At the same time, it can also exacerbate inequalities, if access to digital infrastructures is uneven and their development and deployment are biased. Further risks could be introduced such as threats to privacy, cybersecurity vulnerabilities and ethical dilemmas that could reverberate across societies.

This momentum led to **a series of landmark resolutions** adopted by the GA, starting in March 2024 with its first resolution on AI, entitled "[Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development](#)". Resolutions on [enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of AI](#) and on the [promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies](#) followed.<sup>32</sup> **As AI rapidly proliferated all aspects of life, concerns around its risks have mounted and the call for global digital and AI governance became urgent.** Such governance frameworks would need to tackle risks related to bias in AI algorithms, the potential misuse of AI technologies, lack of transparency in decision-making processes, and impact on privacy, autonomy and accountability. Against this evolving backdrop, UN bodies and entities have deepened their focus on fostering **ethical and responsible AI** development, deployment and use, safeguarding human rights in digital spaces, bridging persistent connectivity gaps, leveraging science and data for decision-making, and reinforcing trust through governance frameworks. These considerations were at the heart of the discussions at the [Special meeting of ECOSOC on Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for the SDGs](#), the [27<sup>th</sup> session](#) of [CSTD](#), [ITU](#)-led [AI for Good Summit 2024](#),

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<sup>32</sup> Resolutions related to the use of AI in the realm of peace and security and foreign policy, as well as on the peaceful use of outer space, were also adopted.

and [UNESCO's Second Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence](#) and [Policy Dialogue on AI Governance](#).

The adoption of the **Global Digital Compact (GDC)** at the **Summit of the Future in September 2024** reflects a unified global effort to create an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all, addressing challenges such as the digital divides, data privacy and the responsible and ethical use of emerging technologies. Key commitments include achieving universal connectivity to bridge the digital divides; expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all; creating safe and inclusive digital spaces by upholding human rights and international law online, ensuring information integrity and promoting digital skills; advancing digital public goods and infrastructure; strengthening data systems to support the SDGs; and developing responsible, equitable, and interoperable data governance frameworks as well as international governance mechanisms for AI that benefit humanity. The GDC underscores the pivotal role of multistakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in driving the effective implementation of these commitments, recognizing also the importance of capacity-building and technology transfer. The implementation of the GDC will build on the processes and forums emanating from the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**, in particular the **Internet Governance Forum** and its national and regional initiatives as well as the **WSIS Forum**. To this end, the **CSTD** will prepare a report supporting the preparations for the [20-year review](#) of implementation of the WSIS (**WSIS+20**), to be submitted to the General Assembly through ECOSOC in 2025.

The expansion of AI has been a defining feature of the digital transformation landscape, with AI systems increasingly integrated into sectors ranging from healthcare and education to finance, climate action and disaster response. Recognizing the unparalleled prospects created by the scalability and adaptability of AI to address complex challenges, optimize processes and drive sustainable development, **UN bodies and entities are collectively working to harness these opportunities in varied ways**. System-wide AI expertise and information exchange is advancing through the [Interagency Working Group on AI](#) of the Chief Executives Board (CEB)'s High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), co-led by **ITU** and **UNESCO**, and a [Framework for a Model Policy for Responsible use of AI within the UN system](#) was adopted by the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) in October 2024. Additionally, the [Report on the Operational Use of AI in the UN System](#), developed under the auspices of HLCM presents a comprehensive overview of the state of AI in the UN System, and highlights challenges and ongoing efforts of UN organizations towards the responsible use of AI for programmatic delivery and towards integrating AI strategically in core operations. **UNESCO's** Executive Board also adopted a [decision to advance progress on the SDGs through AI initiatives](#) emphasizing collaboration across UN entities on AI and recognizing efforts to build AI capacities with various stakeholders, including the [Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence](#), and **ITU** organized the first [International AI Standards Summit](#).

Moreover, **digital transformation in the public sector**, where technology can enhance governance, service delivery and citizen engagement, is critical. **CEPA** has focused on advancing digital government, particularly after adopting the 2030 Agenda, and continues to support countries in achieving the SDGs by promoting public trust, inclusion and integrity through digital transformation, enhancing service delivery, building digital capacity, addressing divides, improving data governance, mitigating technology risks, and combating misinformation. The [UN E-Government Survey 2024](#) and its "Local Online Service Index" (LOSI) methodology, which aims to enhance e-government services by assessing local government portals, assisted

governments in identifying and addressing gaps in service delivery and in enhancing local digital governance. **UN DESA** deployed a series of online national and local e-government toolkits offering strategic planning roadmaps and detailed guidance for local authorities to create user-friendly online platforms that promote citizen-centric services. Additionally, the ongoing [Digital Transformation Dialogues](#), organized by **ITU** in partnership with various UN and other partners, address the rapidly evolving needs and provide critical insights on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. These efforts were complemented by global forums such as the [ICEGOV 2024](#), which was organized by **UNU** and focused on trust and ethical digital governance to advance sustainable development on a global scale, and the forthcoming **UNESCO's** [Global Forum on AI and Digital Transformation in the Public Sector](#), to be held in February 2025 within the WSIS+20 review framework. In addition, tools like **UNDP's** [SDG Integration](#), the **Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**'s [Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit \(IPRT\)](#) and the **Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)**'s [ENACT project](#) support governments increase effectiveness and inclusiveness in using digital technologies for an integrated development planning to advance the SDGs.

Furthermore, to **promote affordable and equitable access to technologies and fair distribution of the benefits of technological developments**, the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**'s [Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future](#) urges a global shift towards a circular digital economy, focusing on circularity by design through durable products, responsible consumption, reuse and recycling, and sustainable business models to achieve environmentally sustainable and inclusive digitalization. **OHCHR** is calling for a major overhaul of intellectual property rights to encourage equitable technology transfer and foster innovation investments and in support of the operationalization of the right to development. The **Committee for Development Policy (CDP)** encouraged developing countries to reassess their science, technology and innovation policy frameworks for innovation and make full use of the policy space available to them, to ensure they are aligned with national priorities, such as improving access to affordable medicines and other essential technologies; and stressed the need for a reassessment of the global system to support innovation, to ensure it meets public interest.

Significant progress has also been made in **digital transformation efforts at the regional level**, as exemplified by the adoption of the [Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean \(eLAC2026\)](#), supported by **ECLAC**; the [Arab Digital Agenda \(ADA\)](#) and tools such as the [Arab Digital Inclusion Platform](#) and the [Arab Open and Innovative Government Portal](#), supported by **ESCWA**; the launch of the [SEADGov forum](#), organized by **UNU**, **ECA** and **UN DESA**, which supports efforts to implement Africa Union's [Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa](#).

**Data systems** lie at the heart of leveraging digital innovation. Data is pivotal to the achievement of sustainable development as a transformative force driving innovation and value creation and supporting evidence-based policymaking. The [5<sup>th</sup> UN World Data Forum](#) discussed pathways toward improved data systems to advance sustainable development including by driving data innovation and mobilizing strategic partnerships and high-level political and financial support. Several ECOSOC subsidiary bodies have called for strengthening data collection, emphasizing the need for high-quality, disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking and SDG monitoring, including **CSTD**, **CPD**, **CSW** and **CND**. The **Statistical Commission** approved annual refinements to the global indicator framework and established specific criteria for the 2025 comprehensive review of SDG indicators, addressed the integration between statistics and data science, big data and other emerging technologies like large language models, and endorsed principles and



best practices for open data to promote transparency and interoperability across national and international data systems. The GDC requested the [CSTD](#) to establish a multi-stakeholder working group to discuss and develop, in a holistic manner, **fundamental principles of data governance** that promote interoperability and responsible practices, address data privacy and security concerns, and take into account diverse national perspectives. The working group is to report on its progress to the General Assembly by its 81<sup>st</sup> session. As an UN system-wide input to deliberations on international data governance, a paper was prepared under the auspices of the HLCP on [Proposed Normative Foundations for International Data Governance: Goals and Principles](#).

The [Statistical Commission](#) also emphasized the urgent need for consistent technical and financial support to national statistical offices, particularly in developing countries, to enhance their capacity to generate and report accurate SDG indicators. In the same vein, the [CND](#) emphasized the importance of capacity-building and resource mobilization, inter-agency cooperation and partnerships with civil society, academia and private sector to enhance efforts in addressing drug-related challenges and called for strengthening national capacity for collecting and sharing disaggregated data on drug trends and leveraging technological advancements to address challenges. [UN DESA](#), in collaboration with Google, continued to lead the modernization of [UNdata portal](#) to serve as a comprehensive, open-access platform for official data from UN entities. This is consistent with the GDC's emphasis on open data access to foster innovation and transparency.

Moreover, tools such as [UNDP's GeoHub](#), a data-driven platform that integrates geospatial data, advanced analytics, and visualization tools to support countries in making strategic decisions aligned with the SDGs, furthered the **integration of geospatial data into data systems**. The [Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management \(UN-GGIM\)](#) underscored the global commitment to advancing geospatial information management, fostering international cooperation and addressing emerging challenges in the field, including the impact of emerging technologies and the need for strategic planning to integrate these advancements effectively. UN-GGIM discussed the development of robust policy and legal governance structures for geospatial information, including creating a conceptual framework for future geospatial ecosystems that embed ethical considerations in geospatial artificial intelligence, and called for enhancing resource mobilization and capacity-building efforts to bridge the geospatial digital divide between developed and developing countries. Additionally, the [UN Geospatial Network](#), an interagency coordination mechanism reporting to the UN-GGIM, continued work to improve coordination among UN-system entities on geospatial data and technology.

**The momentum around AI and other emerging technologies has placed science, technology and innovation (STI) at the heart of global policy debates.** [GA](#) and [ECOSOC](#) resolutions on STI for development emphasized STI as critical to advancing the 2030 Agenda and addressing global challenges, including climate change, health emergencies, and digital divides. [CSTD](#) recommended fostering international cooperation in STI and promoting inclusive innovation ecosystems and stressed the importance of aligning STI policies with national development strategies and building capacities, particularly in developing countries. Additional resolutions promoted the importance of STI, including those declaring [16 September as the International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South](#), [2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#), and [2024–2033 as the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development](#). Moreover,

UNESCO's Executive Board adopted several decisions in follow up to the [2017 Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers](#) to promote scientific freedom and the safety of scientists in all its forms.

The [9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals \(STI Forum\)](#) further demonstrated the pivotal role played by STI in addressing global challenges, which require comprehensive solutions that address the interlinkages between environmental, social and economic sustainability. The Forum highlighted AI's potential in boosting farming yields and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while noting the importance of bridging STI capacity divides among countries through partnerships for knowledge-sharing and technology transfer. UNESCO's report [Science, technology and innovation policy instruments for the Sustainable Development Goals: a global outlook](#) provides a thorough understanding of the global STI policy landscape, including effective policy implementation practices and challenges, offering insights to leverage STI policies in achieving the SDGs.

The GDC envisions the establishment of an **Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence** and of a **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**. The [intergovernmental process and consultations](#) to identify their terms of reference and modalities have commenced in January 2025. Furthermore, the GDC has request the Secretary-General to submit options for a **Global Fund on AI** to the General Assembly at its 79<sup>th</sup> session. The proposal should take into account the recommendations of the [High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence \(HLAB-AI\)](#), the final report of which was released on the eve of the Summit of the Future and made the case for the need for global governance on AI. The [HLAB-AI](#) put forward seven policy recommendations, including the establishment of an independent international scientific panel on AI and the convening of a multistakeholder policy dialogue on AI governance, both of which incorporated into the GDC, as well as the creation of an AI standards exchange, an AI capacity development network, a Global fund for AI, a Global AI data framework and AI office within the UN Secretariat. Following a [decision](#) by the General Assembly, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology transitioned on 1 January 2025 to a [new UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies \(ODET\)](#), with the key focus of supporting the follow-up and implementation of the GDC, including its decisions on AI governance.

## VI. Leveling the multilateral playing field: Financing and investment solutions for sustainable development in countries in special situations

Achieving the SDGs by 2030 hinges critically on financing solutions that address the unique challenges of countries in special situations. The necessary economic transitions require investments at unprecedented scale. The [2024 Financing for Sustainable Development Report \(FSDR 2024\)](#) estimates the SDG financing and investment gaps to be between USD 2.5 trillion and USD 4 trillion annually. **Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face disproportionate burdens in financing their development priorities** due to structural vulnerabilities, high financing costs and unsustainable debt levels. The FSDR 2024 shows that annual debt servicing cost for LDCs will amount to USD 40 billion between 2023 and 2025. This is an increase of over 50% compared to USD 26 billion in 2022. Currently, LDCs allocate 12% of their revenues to interest payments, a figure that has quadrupled over the past decade.

Approximately 40% of the global population resides in nations where government expenditure on interest payments surpasses spending on education and health.<sup>33</sup> Some assessments suggest that over half of the debt increase in vulnerable countries is attributed to the growing intensity and frequency of climate change-related disasters.<sup>34</sup> The current **international financial architecture (IFA)** has struggled to facilitate the large-scale mobilization of stable and long-term financing required to address the climate crisis and achieve the SDGs.<sup>35</sup> The weight of rising interest rates and debt levels faced by developing countries restricts the fiscal space needed for advancing sustainable development while at the same time hampering their access to financing. It also undermines the credibility of multilateralism and damages trust. Reform of the international financial architecture is an important step towards building greater trust in the multilateral system. There are **increasing calls for reform** to address the underrepresentation of developing countries in the decision-making processes of international financial institutions (IFIs). A functioning and balanced global financial architecture must enable the achievement of a sustainable and prosperous future for humanity and the planet by addressing the needs and aspirations of all countries. It should eliminate the trade-off between fulfilling debt obligations and meeting the essential needs of populations, ensuring that no country is forced to compromise its development goals.

**Reforming the international financial architecture is crucial to providing enough resources for achieving the SDGs in countries in special situations.** The [Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development](#) [called](#) for the need to urgently close financing gaps through an investment push, close policy and architecture gaps to make the IFA fit for purpose in a crisis-prone world, as well as credibility gaps translating rhetoric into action to rebuild trust in multilateralism. The [CDP](#) has consistently highlighted aspects of the multilateral system that have held countries back from advancing sustainable development, particularly countries in special situations, and has issued [recommendations](#) relating to sovereign debt, development assistance, productive capacity, structural transformation and green transition, access to science, technology and innovation including issues of intellectual property rights, among others. The [CSW urged](#) fostering international cooperation to address structural inequalities and expand access to resources for women and girls and ensure gender-responsive governance and decision-making at all levels. The [6th Human Rights Council Intersessional Meeting on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda](#) explored how leveraging the human rights framework can position the international financial, debt and tax architecture to proactively support, rather than impede, the realization of human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

**With the adoption of the [Pact for the Future](#), countries agreed to reform international financial systems to better serve all countries**, including by enhancing developing countries' voice in decision-making in IFIs, mobilizing financing to support sustainable development and climate action, reforming sovereign debt systems to ensure sustainable borrowing, and providing reliable official development assistance that aligns with national priorities. At the same time, further efforts by developing countries to establish efficient tax systems and domestic revenue streams that are directed toward their national sustainable development priorities are necessary, including strengthening their capacity to integrate into global trade markets and value chains.<sup>36</sup> **Tax frameworks and international cooperation can advance domestic revenue streams.** The

<sup>33</sup> UNCTAD, [A World of Debt Report 2024](#).

<sup>34</sup> UN DESA, [Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024](#).

<sup>35</sup> Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 6: Reforms to the International Financial Architecture, 2023, United Nations.

<sup>36</sup> Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 6: Reforms to the International Financial Architecture, 2023, United Nations.

[2024 ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Tax Cooperation](#) discussed the promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations and provided written inputs to the work of the [Ad Hoc Committee to draft terms of reference for a UN framework convention](#). The draft terms of reference were recently [adopted](#) by the General Assembly. The [Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters \(UNTC\)](#) work on wealth taxation and provided guidance on model legislation to support SDG financing and climate action, with special emphasis on developing countries. [ECLAC](#) established a [Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) to generate knowledge, share experiences, and contribute to the construction of common positions and solutions.

**Capacity building and improved governance can sustainably boost development gains for developing countries.** [UNDP](#), together with [UN DESA](#), [UNICEF](#) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), supported over 86 countries, including 13 countries on the World Bank’s Classification of Fragile and Conflict Afflicted Situations, to adopt Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF). Country-led INFF initiatives have [leveraged \\$16 billion in new finance and aligned an additional \\$32 billion](#) with the SDGs. [UNDRR](#) offers guidance on [applying a disaster risk reduction lens to INFFs](#) to help connect the disaster risk profile and assessment of the country with suitable funding mechanisms, policies and regulations. [UNCTAD](#)’s [DMFAS Programme](#) provides technical assistance to developing countries to enhance their debt management capacities through specialized software and advisory services. Moreover, [CEPA](#) urged governments at all levels to apply the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to all public institutions and in support of the implementation of all SDGs, taking into account different governance structures, national and subnational realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Organized by [UNIDO](#), [UNECA](#) and African Union Commission (AUC), the 7<sup>th</sup> High-level event on the [Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa \(IDDA III\)](#), which is mandated to advance Africa’s industrial growth in line with the SDGs and the African Union’s Agenda 2063, took place under the theme “Sustainable Industry for Africa’s Tomorrow: Building Resilience Across Generations”.

**Development cooperation is a central driver of investment for sustainable development.** The biennial [ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum](#), taking place in March 2025, will address trends and progress in international development cooperation, discuss strategies and formulating policy recommendations to advance the SDGs at a key moment in the lead up to the [4th International Conference on Financing for Development \(FfD4\)](#). Furthermore, the [UNDP](#) and OECD are hosting a joint support team for the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#) that convenes stakeholders around the four effectiveness principles – country ownership, a focus on results, inclusiveness, and mutual accountability – and a country-level monitoring exercise to catalyze progress on the SDGs for people, planet and prosperity. The Trust Funds managed by the [UN Office for South-South Cooperation \(UNOSSC\)](#), which received contributions totaling nearly \$20 million in 2024, provided robust support to countries in special situations, benefiting 36 LDCs, 23 LLDCs and 32 SIDS. Additionally, a Triangular Cooperation window has been established under the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation aiming to bring diverse resources and expertise to support developing countries, especially those in special situations. Taking place later in 2025, the 16<sup>th</sup> [UNCTAD](#) quadrennial conference ([UNCTAD16](#)) will further serve as a critical platform to address global economic challenges, fostering tangible outcomes and aligning with major international initiatives to strengthen investment facilitation, inclusive trade, and sustainable development strategies. The [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#), supported by [UNDP](#) and [UNOPS](#), offers a comprehensive framework for

tracking financing aligned with the SDGs, including on climate action, and facilitates reporting through mechanisms such as the UN system-wide financial data reporting framework and the Grand Bargain's humanitarian financing commitments. The [Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting \(ISAR\)](#) continued to foster the integration of reporting on the financial and sustainability performance of public and private sector entities, which is a prerequisite for informed investment decision-making.

**The surging climate crisis requires urgent investments.** Climate finance was one of the main priorities at COP29, where [OHRLS](#) organized events focusing on scaling-up finance for early warning systems, strengthening partnerships for a green transition, and bridging local and global efforts on loss and damage including the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. These efforts are closely aligned with the follow-up to the [Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS](#), the [Doha Programme of Action for LDCs](#) and the [Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs](#), emphasizing the need for targeted financing solutions and partnerships as preparations for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development ([FfD4](#)) gain momentum.

[FfD4](#), to take place in Seville, Spain from 30 June to 3 July 2025, will assess progress of implementation of the outcomes of previous conferences, including the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), and address new and emerging issues including in the context of the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to support reform of the IFA. The first FfD4 Preparatory Committee session, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2024, showed a shared understanding of the urgent need for reforming the IFA to unlock financing with speed and scale, as well as the rules and governance of international taxation, building a development-friendly debt architecture, creating fiscal space for investment in the SDGs and reforming international development cooperation. Moreover, countries are confronting persistent financing gaps, experimenting with innovative funding mechanisms and advocating for more inclusive international financial systems.

## VII. Commitment to action: Scenarios for impactful decision-making

The world has the wealth, technology, and know-how to achieve the SDGs.<sup>37</sup> In the face of lagging progress and an increasingly complex international context, **a renewed commitment to decisive evidence-based action to drive meaningful, accelerated implementation of the SDGs** is imperative.

**The integration of strategic foresight is critical to maximize the impact of these efforts.** By systematically analyzing trends, exploring potential future scenarios, and identifying emerging opportunities and challenges, strategic foresight can facilitate more informed, adaptive and impactful decision-making. This forward-looking approach can ensure that strategies remain resilient and aligned with long-term objectives. Strategic foresight can strengthen the UN system's support to Member States by providing evidence-based insights that inform national policies, prioritize resource allocation and foster innovation. UN system entities are increasingly [leveraging strategic foresight](#) to analyze emerging trends, anticipate future challenges and

<sup>37</sup> Secretary-General's [remarks](#) at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Moment Event, 24 September 2024.

shape proactive, adaptive strategies that enhance its ability to support Member States in addressing emerging challenges in implementing the SDGs.<sup>38</sup>

Embedding foresight into planning and implementation processes would strengthen national capacities, foster innovation and advance international collaboration, thereby enabling more effective navigation of uncertainties and the achievement of transformative progress toward sustainable development. **The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of implementation of the 2030 Agenda offer one important example where such approaches could be applied to achieve critical progress.** VNRs have evolved from broad early-stage assessments into more strategic, data-driven and socially responsive instruments guiding sustainable development, while increasingly emphasizing continuity by linking current reviews to previous ones for better progress tracking and accountability. Recent presentations show that countries are focusing on specific challenges, refining their policy frameworks and improving data quality. This shift includes a stronger human-centered approach, prioritizing marginalized groups and social justice. VNRs have also become increasingly more institutionalized and reflecting political and social transitions, particularly in countries facing governance changes or post-conflict rebuilding, as governments adapt their policies and governance structures to better align with national priorities and local realities. Subnational entities and civil society are playing a more prominent role, ensuring that strategies resonate at the grassroots level.

**There have been sustained efforts to strengthen the VNRs effectiveness as a tool for peer learning and exchanging experiences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** Proposals to strengthen the VNR process and leverage their full potential as catalysts of countries' sustainable development pathways include deepening integrated approaches, strengthening analytical content, embracing adaptive learning, promoting greater decentralization, adopting more participatory and transparent processes, embedding whole-of-society approaches, and making concrete efforts to bridge the transformative ambition of the 2030 agenda and the implementation efforts.<sup>39</sup> **UN DESA** has launched a new edition of the [VNR handbook](#) which includes updated [Secretary-General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines](#) to aid countries in preparing reviews that are inclusive, evidence-based and transformative.

**As the world continues to navigate unprecedented challenges, and the United Nations celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this informal note calls for making 2025 a turning point to reinvigorate collective action and strengthen our resolve to achieve the SDGs, ensuring that no one is left behind and that our shared vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future becomes a reality.**

In the current global context, marked by heightened conflicts, geopolitical tensions and increasing divisiveness, **the need for unified and strategic collaboration and solidarity has never been more urgent. Strengthening trust and fostering international cooperation are critical** to overcoming barriers and ensuring that no one is left behind. The General Assembly recognized the importance of trust to achieve peaceful and prosperous societies by declaring [2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust](#).

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<sup>38</sup> See, for example, UNEP [foresight report on planetary health](#), WHO [horizon scans](#) on emerging technologies for global public health UNFPA foresight report on [four future scenarios for three transformative results](#), ILO [future of trade unions](#) foresight exercise, UNICEF foresight [report](#) related to climate change (youth perspectives), and UN Futures Lab with UN Habitat and GIZ [foresight exercise](#) on urban futures, among other.

<sup>39</sup> Committee for Development Policy [Communiqué](#): New approach to the voluntary national review process, 13 February 2024.

ECOSOC has been actively addressing the widespread impacts of escalating conflicts, with a notable focus on the efforts of its [Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti](#). In the face of increasing gang violence, extreme food insecurity and forced displacement in Haiti, the Group continues to monitor the development prospects of the country and advocate for a comprehensive and coordinated support for socio-economic recovery and humanitarian needs.

**Continued, coordinated and urgent action is needed to turn global commitments into tangible actions that benefit all.** Fragmented efforts risk undermining progress, while well-coordinated approaches harness the collective strengths to deliver integrated impactful solutions addressing interconnected challenges. Only by aligning commitments with action towards agreed common goals, upholding the principles of multilateralism and the Charter of the United Nations will we be able to catalyze transformative change and achieve a more equitable, sustainable, prosperous and peaceful world for all, with universal respect for and promotion of human rights, human dignity, and the rule of law.

In this context, **ECOSOC's mandate to leverage evidence-based solutions and coordinate the work of its subsidiary bodies and UN entities to accelerate SDG implementation and fulfill the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda is more crucial than ever.** As evidenced by this informal note, UN bodies and entities continued to increase efforts to strengthen coordination for more impactful action. The adoption of the [UN 2.0 Action Plan](#) will critically address any remaining coordination gaps by streamlining existing coordination mechanisms and leveraging necessary new ones to foster greater synergies across UN entities and enhance the Organization's capacity to deliver cohesive, impactful and partnership-driven solutions to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

## VIII. Recommendations for consideration

The following **recommendations** are put forward to foster coordination and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in follow up to the [2024 ECOSOC and HLPF Ministerial Declaration](#) as well as the outcomes of the [Summit of the Future](#).

The **ECOSOC subsidiary bodies** should:

- Further strengthen the alignment of their agendas and programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda to ensure a more coordinated follow up and implementation of the Agenda and its SDGs.
- Continue to deepen collaboration with other subsidiary bodies as well as UN system entities to effectively address cross-cutting issues and provide integrated and in-depth analysis to support evidence-based recommendations on the advancement of the SDGs.
- Advance analytical and evidence-based tools, including the integration of strategic foresight into their work to anticipate challenges and identify opportunities, with a view to making their contributions more forward-looking and impactful.
- Support countries in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), within their respective mandates, and integrate the wealth of information contained in the VNRs as well as policies and actions arising from the HLPF thematic reviews in their work, as appropriate, to maximize synergies, mitigate trade-offs and drive transformation.
- Enhance engagement with external partners, including the private sector and civil society, to leverage their unique resources and perspectives.

**UN system entities, including specialized agencies, should:**

- Strengthen efforts to address coordination gaps and reduce duplication, building synergies with partnerships and broader UN initiatives to effectively address cross-cutting issues and provide integrated and multi-sectoral approaches to accelerate implementation of the SDGs.
- Further leverage existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms, ensuring that they align with and build upon intergovernmental guidance, particularly guidance emanating from the ECOSOC Coordination Segment.
- Foster innovation and build strategic partnerships to scale up financing for sustainable development and climate action in a mutually reinforcing and integrated manner.
- Leverage digital transformation to enhance service delivery, governance and citizen engagement.
- Promote the integration of risk management into sustainable development strategies.
- Develop and implement system-wide standards and frameworks for the ethical use and governance of AI to address digital divides and emerging technology risks, ensuring alignment with human rights principles, transparency and accountability, while leveraging AI technologies to accelerate progress toward the SDGs.
- Enhance data collection and integration systems to support more evidence-based policymaking, with a focus on high-quality, disaggregated data to support the implementation of the SDGs.

**The Economic and Social Council should:**

- Establish robust feedback loops between the reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including VNRs, and the work of the Council to ensure that lessons learned, challenges identified, and best practices can inform ECOSOC's guidance and decision-making processes, while also ensuring that this guidance is systematically integrated and followed up in subsequent reviews.
- Further develop and promote integrated policies to address interconnected challenges by providing clear guidance to subsidiary bodies and UN system entities, while strengthening efforts to incorporate the expertise and evidence-based recommendations of its subsidiary bodies into ECOSOC's work.
- Facilitate global discussions on AI governance to advance coherent international frameworks that promote the ethical and inclusive use of AI, ensuring that its deployment addresses inequalities and drives sustainable development.
- Use ECOSOC's platform to strengthen international cooperation and foster trust and solidarity among Member States, aligning global commitments with regional and national implementation frameworks.

**Member States should:**

- Take decisive action to translate global commitments into tangible results by actively engaging in multilateral processes, strengthening collaboration, upholding the principles of the UN Charter and aligning national policies, budgets and investments with international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future.
- Strengthen and unify policies across UN governing bodies to drive a cohesive system-wide strategy for accelerating the SDGs.





- In the context of the upcoming review of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level political forum on sustainable development, taking place during the General Assembly's 80<sup>th</sup> session, consider the timing of the segments of the Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies and UN entities Executive Board meetings, to foster further coordination and synergies in their follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Actively engage in the work of ECOSOC to advance the reform of the international financial architecture and promote more equitable and effective global economic and financial governance.
- Pursue innovative and collaborative solutions to scale up financing for sustainable development and climate action in an integrated and mutually reinforcing manner, ensuring that resources are effectively aligned to address both global priorities and local needs.
- Work collaboratively to establish comprehensive and inclusive global frameworks for data and AI governance that promote interoperability, ethical use, transparency and accountability to maximize the benefits of AI and data technologies for the benefit of humanity.

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## IX. Annex: 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**)