Introductory remarks to the Economic and Social Council
on the Annual Overview Report of
the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2024

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Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

The Council has before it the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2024 (E/2025/13), describing progress made under the Board's auspices in support of intergovernmental mandates and Member States' priorities.

In 2024, the CEB reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda and supporting Member States in its implementation. The Board devoted significant attention to advancing multilateralism—particularly in the lead-up to, and immediate follow-up from, the Summit of the Future.

Board members emphasized the urgent need to restore trust in multilateral solutions, uphold the norms and values of the United Nations, and support ongoing intergovernmental processes.

To foster a shared understanding of intergenerational equity, the Core Group on Duties to the Future of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) developed a set of frequently asked questions. These complemented the UN System Common Principles on Future Generations, endorsed by CEB in 2023, and were shared with Member States in the context of the Declaration on Future Generations.

Recognizing the critical role of data in addressing global challenges, HLCP spearheaded work on international data governance. This effort led to the development of UN system-wide principles centered on value, trust and equity, promoting fairness, accountability and the protection of individual and community rights. Endorsed by the Board, the principles were offered as a contribution to the Global Digital Compact.

HLCP led AI governance efforts, resulting in a CEB-endorsed white paper that analyzed existing institutional models and normative frameworks across the UN system. The paper was submitted as the UN system's contribution to the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body and Global Digital Compact deliberations.

In response to escalating crises, the Board discussed ways to strengthen humanitarian action through improved coordination, data and technology, and broader donor engagement. It also endorsed a system-wide approach to enhance coherence and integration in addressing internal displacement within the SDG framework. Additional collective action to protect people and planet included launching the first strategy on water and sanitation and aligning climate messaging for COP29 and COP30.

The Board spearheaded a common approach to transnational organized crime - being developed under UNODC's leadership - to strengthen policy coherence, data-sharing, and support tailored to Member States.

Attentive to emerging issues of system-wide concern, HLCM deliberated on opportunities and risks presented by artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, and the importance of values-based governance.

HLCM produced a model policy framework for the ethical use of AI and a catalogue of AI initiatives, marking a coordinated, forward-looking approach to responsible innovation across the UN system. The framework guides the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence, emphasizing human rights, transparency, and risk management. It sets minimum standards—such as risk assessments—while allowing flexibility for operational adaptation. Similarly, a complementary report reviewed current AI practices, collaboration, and future opportunities across the UN system.

Efforts continued to accelerate the adoption of modern tools and data-driven approaches to improve integrated responses, transparency, and accountability. Examples include the enhanced availability of financial and human resources data tools on the CEB website, strengthened risk management, cyber resilience, sexual harassment prevention, mental health strategies, disability inclusion, and digital transformation— including the rollout of UN Digital ID. Driving cultural change remains central to realizing the Secretary-General's vision of a United Nations 2.0.

In addition, the CEB Secretariat continued to support the Secretary-General's Coordinator for Multilingualism in promoting a coordinated approach and the Strategic Framework on Multilingualism.

I trust this report demonstrates how CEB serves as a catalyst for integration and coherence across the United Nations system—spanning both programmatic and management areas—in support of intergovernmental mandates and priorities.

I welcome the Council's views on the work of the Board.

Thank you.