



Chief Executives Board for Coordination

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Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its forty-fifth session

(New York, 22 and 23 March 2023)

I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its forty-fifth session at Scandinavia House in New York on 22 and 23 March 2023. The agenda of the session and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present report.

2. In opening the session, the Chair of the Committee, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen, welcomed members and observed that the Committee was again meeting amid a confluence of enormous global challenges. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, multiple crises, in particular the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, inequalities and climate change, were reversing progress and threatening the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. She expressed concern that in its recently released report entitled “Climate change 2023: synthesis report – summary for policymakers”, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that humanity was likely to exceed the 1.5°C limit set out in the Paris Agreement in the first half of the 2030 decade.

3. Before presenting the session agenda for adoption, the Chair highlighted the uniqueness of HLCP as a forum for strategic thinking that brought the United Nations system together on critical issues to better support Member States in addressing them. She noted that the Committee’s three pillars of work, “duties to the future”, “new global public goods” and “networked and inclusive governance” were of great relevance for supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda. The Chair recalled the contribution of HLCP to the “Beyond GDP” initiative, the input by the Core Group on Duties to the Future to the policy brief of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda policy brief 1: to think and act for future generations”, the relevance of the workstream on data governance to the Global Digital Compact, and the value of the capacity-building function of the Strategic Foresight Network of HLPF in support of towards a “United Nations 2.0”.



II. Reflection on the Committee's contribution to the implementation of processes under Our Common Agenda, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the Committee's three-part strategic narrative¹ had been devised in 2021 to position HLCP to better support the 2030 Agenda, while also serving as an enabling force for some of the transformative ideas in the report entitled "Our Common Agenda" ([A/75/982](#)).

5. To provide relevant context for the reflection, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Guy Rider, offered an update on the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in 2023, the implementation of Our Common Agenda and the intergovernmental process towards the Summit of the Future to be held in 2024; and the Executive Director of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, David Passarelli, reported on the work of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

6. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy noted the confluence of crises facing the world and cited the critical role of the United Nations system in rising to the challenges of the time and of HLCP in supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General in 2023, an important year for the multilateral system. At the halfway point between 2015 and 2030, the objectives of the 2030 Agenda were far off-track, and hence it was vitally important that the Sustainable Development Goals Summit was a success and a turning point for reaching the Goals by their target date. The Sustainable Development Goal stimulus proposed by the Secretary-General was an important input towards that aspiration.

7. Recalling the origins of Our Common Agenda, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy emphasized that it was complementary to and a turbocharger for the Goals. He enumerated the 11 tracks on which the Secretary-General would be issuing policy briefs and encouraged United Nations system entities to continue to consult widely on the briefs and ensure that they were of high quality. Member States were in the process of discussing the focus of the September 2023 preparatory ministerial meeting for the Summit of the Future, including whether any concrete outcomes related to the 11 tracks could be adopted.

8. Finally, the Under-Secretary-General highlighted that the Secretary-General saw the 2024 Summit of the Future as an opportunity to retool the United Nations system to better address structural obstacles and shortcomings that had hampered progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy observed that, on the basis of its strategic narrative, HLCP had been contributing to the substance of the issues in Our Common Agenda and should continue to help develop, refine and reinforce the inputs for Member States towards the Summit of the Future.

9. Mr. Passarelli, speaking in his role as head of the secretariat of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, provided an update on the Advisory Board's work, a preview of its recommendations and an overview of the roll-out process for the Board's report entitled *A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future*.

10. Recalling the Advisory Board's mandate to focus on providing bold but realistic solutions to challenges of global concern, he stated that the final report would be delivered to the Secretary-General on 18 April 2023 and, in turn, transmitted to Member States to inform their negotiations on the Summit of the Future.

¹ Available at: <https://unsceb.org/high-level-committee-programmes-strategic-narrative>.

Mr. Passarelli stressed that the report was one contribution among many complementary activities. It was expected to set out 10 principles of effective multilateralism and six transformative shifts that tackled present and future challenges, namely:

- (a) Rebuild trust in multilateralism through inclusion and accountability;
- (b) Deliver for people and planet by regaining balance with nature and providing clean energy for all;
- (c) Ensure sustainable finance that delivers for all;
- (d) Support a just digital transition that unlocks the value of data and protects against digital harms;
- (e) Empower equitable, effective collective security arrangements;
- (f) Strengthen governance for current and emerging transnational risks.

11. As secretariat to the Advisory Board, the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research was planning to develop short briefs on the concrete actions put forward in the report for Member States to draw upon when considering matters of global governance, effective multilateralism and the provision of global public goods during the forthcoming intergovernmental negotiations on the Summit of the Future. Mr. Passarelli acknowledged that inputs received from members of the Committee had contributed to the quality and sharpness of the final report and welcomed the help of interested United Nations system entities (along with Advisory Board members and the co-facilitators for the preparatory process of the Summit, Germany and Namibia) to unpack the recommendations for the benefit of Member States.

12. In the ensuing discussion, members expressed appreciation for the updates and committed to helping to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Summit of the Future were successful. The importance of having the two Summits be complementary, coherent and mutually reinforcing was stressed, as was creating trust in the processes. Much of the work in support of Our Common Agenda, including the report of the High-level Advisory Board, was seen as relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and could reinforce the call for urgent and transformative action to meet the 2030 Agenda. Specifically, there would be value in the CEB addressing the Sustainable Development Goals Summit visibly in its discussions to show the support of the Secretary-General and the other members of CEB. The members also underscored the role of the working group on Our Common Agenda, under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, in strengthening linkages and consolidating focus on accelerating progress towards the Goals within the United Nations development system. It was noted that several recommendations in Our Common Agenda had already been made operational, such as the creation of the Youth Office and the convening of the Transforming Education Summit, which should be recognized as achievements.

13. With regard to the recent activities of HLCP, it was observed that the Committee's strategic narrative had provided continuity in terms of the substantive focus of its work and the tracks established in support of Our Common Agenda, such as on Beyond GDP, duties to the future, data and inequalities. Members felt HLCP had proved to be an effective platform for soliciting inputs and coordinating engagement to support key elements of Our Common Agenda. It could be further leveraged to facilitate system-wide buy-in and ownership of recommendations for consideration by Member States, as well as to make connections across different processes. Specifically, it was suggested that the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence could contribute on the digital elements of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and Summit of the Future, including the Global Digital

Compact, as well as map existing work across the United Nations system. A future role could be foreseen for HLCP in ensuring coherent support for the implementation of the eventual outcomes of the Summit of the Future.

14. Over the course of the discussion, members detailed how their entities were supporting the follow-up to Our Common Agenda, including by contributing to the development of the policy briefs, supporting capacity development towards the Secretary-General's vision for a United Nations 2.0, following up on the Transforming Education Summit commitments, helping shape the New Agenda for Peace, taking action against misinformation or disinformation and hate speech, supporting the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, ensuring that policies and investments today would not create risks for future generations, integrating gender and the environment as cross-cutting issues, and providing advice and support to United Nations system entities at the country level on engaging in and supporting Our Common Agenda.

15. With respect to the forthcoming report of the High-level Advisory Board, members looked forward to reading it and commended the consultative approach undertaken by the secretariat to inform its content. Support was voiced for the six transformative shifts expected to be put forward for the consideration of Member States. Members addressed specific questions and feedback on the substance of the report to Mr. Passarelli for elaboration, including with respect to human rights, social justice, digital platforms and data governance, trust, trade, economics, ageing populations, and the energy transformation. Queries were also raised about how the Secretary-General might convey the report to Member States.

16. In his final remarks, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy addressed questions on the policy briefs; the report of the High-level Advisory Board; civil society engagement; bringing Our Common Agenda to the national, regional and local levels; and existing mandates on climate and the environment. Mr. Passarelli also responded to questions by elaborating on some of the substance that was expected in the report of the Advisory Board, including on human rights; inequalities and equity; children and young people; the environment and biodiversity; the centrality of the United Nations in a strengthened multilateral system; the role of the private sector in multilateral processes; and improved transparency. He also reiterated the opportunity for members to help take forward some of the ideas presented in the report.

17. Closing the discussion, the Chair thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Policy for addressing the Committee and congratulated the United Nations University (UNU) Centre for Policy Research for ably supporting the Advisory Board and helping to ensure that new ideas were put forward. She looked forward to seeing the final report in April. In line with observations by both speakers, HLCP should continue to pursue its workstreams with the aim to contribute to the implementation of Our Common Agenda, in support of the 2030 Agenda.

III. Progress under the Committee's strategic narrative

A. Duties to the future: intergenerational equity

18. The Chair drew the Committee's attention to two documents before it, recalling that it was asked to consider the results of the stocktaking exercise on future generations and intergenerational equity in the United Nations system and to approve the draft United Nations System Common Principles on Future Generations. The Chair noted the timely nature of the discussion on duties to the future, as the Secretary-General's policy brief on future generations had been released, and also recalled that the report of the High-level Advisory Board, which had been discussed

in the previous segment, provided specific steps to design institutions, policies, and practices that represent and account for future generations. She acknowledged the leadership of the co-leads of the Core Group on Duties to the Future, namely: Chief of Foresight and Policy, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, Jasmina Byrne; Senior Legal Officer and Head of Frontiers in the Environmental Law Unit, Law Division, UNEP, Andrew Raine; and Head of the Geneva Office of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, Adam Day. In addition, she acknowledged the support of their colleagues, Policy Specialist on Society and Young People, UNICEF, Tamara Rusinow; and a Legal Officer at UNEP, Soo-Young Hwang. She also thanked the Core Group on Duties to the Future for its work.

19. Mr. Raine presented the results of the stocktaking exercise on programmes, projects and frameworks to advance the consideration of future generations in the United Nations system. The survey had revealed that most entities had neither a shared understanding or definition of intergenerational equity nor dedicated individuals or teams working on the matter. While the survey highlighted the inadequate guidance and lack of capacity on the subject, it also showed that there was a general appetite to strengthen or initiate work on future generations and that a system-wide understanding of or common approach to addressing intergenerational equity and/or future generations would be useful, confirming the value of developing the Common Principles currently before the Committee.

20. In her presentation of the draft United Nations System Common Principles on Future Generations, Ms. Byrne recalled their purpose: to provide a basis for a shared understanding across the United Nations system of the concept of future generations and to guide the actions of organizations, both in terms of advocacy and engagement with Member States and for implementing the Common Principles in their operations. She underscored the importance of having and using an agreed upon common definition of future generations, which was also enshrined in the policy brief on future generations and the elements paper for the Declaration on Future Generations. The Common Principles had been developed bearing in mind key documents, such as the Charter of the United Nations and Our Common Agenda and were focused on both humanity and humankind’s responsibility for safeguarding the shared environment for future generations. Ms. Byrne presented the eight proposed principles in three groups: those relating to promoting a vision for future generations based on human rights and equity; thinking, planning and acting with future generations in mind; and finding solutions to complex and interconnected problems, including through inclusive partnerships and global collaboration. The Committee was invited to provide feedback on the Common Principles and to consider how to unpack and operationalize them, as well as on connecting them to other processes.

21. In his intervention, Mr. Day stressed the opportunities for the Committee’s work to be linked to the report of the High-level Advisory Board. He identified three ways that HLCP could help instrumentalize the recommendations of the report. First, the report contained a future-oriented principle that was almost identical to one of the Common Principles. Second, the report reflected the call for a future-fit multilateral system, a normative recognition of the rights of future generations, and the design of future-fit organizations and processes that meaningfully included long-term analysis, goal-setting and impact assessments, as well as a system of accountability that held all actors responsible for commitments to future generations, which aligned well with the Common Principles. Third, the report contained a range of proposals focused on encouraging a convergence of norms relating to present, emerging and future risks, including climate change, artificial intelligence and biological risks. Mr. Day suggested that the Committee think about how to transform the Common Principles into action across the United Nations system, drawing on the initiatives suggested by

the High-level Advisory Board, the Futures Lab and other Our Common Agenda tracks.

22. In the ensuing discussion, members expressed their appreciation and support for the Common Principles. They underscored the importance of using clear terminology and firmly rooting intergenerational equity in sustainability and the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the discussion shed light on the challenge of addressing and factoring in highly divergent, diverse and unanticipated futures. It was recommended to clarify what time frame the term “future” covered.

23. It was suggested to explore how data focused on present generations could be leveraged to capture the future dimension. Understanding and creating intergenerational equity required adopting a comprehensive approach and addressing interacting, multidimensional risks. Bearing in mind that future generations were not a monolithic group, members raised the question of how to recognize the importance of addressing intersecting identities in the future. They expressed support for incorporating references to economic opportunities, jobs and the skills required in a quickly changing world of work.

24. Members also favoured the Core Group’s recommended follow-up action to unpack the Common Principles with a view to supporting their mandate and organization-specific operationalization, bearing in mind that the majority of respondents in the stocktaking exercise had indicated that more work was needed to reach a United Nations system-wide common approach to address future generations. Specifically, value was seen in being explicit about human rights due diligence when unpacking the Common Principles. To aid operationalization, members proposed the development of case studies and drawing on examples from other entities.

25. UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellow, United Nations Foundation Next Generation Fellow, and Lead Change Maker for Public Affairs and International Relations at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Jacob Ellis, who was invited as a guest speaker, noted that the essence of the Common Principles was to get the “house in order” at the United Nations. If the United Nations system expected the multilateral system to take action for future generations, it had to be energized, equipped and empowered to do the same. He highlighted that by adopting the Common Principles, the United Nations system sent a clear signal that it knew why and how to achieve that goal. Mr. Ellis noted that the opportunity to influence the future generations agenda had never been more potent or more fragile. He emphasized the importance of the commitment by all entities to ensuring that policy and spending decisions were aligned with future trends and that staff applied a future generations mindset. It was crucial that staff were equipped with futures literacy skills to make decisions and collaborate creatively, including in functions like budget, procurement, human resources, risk and legal affairs, which could be important levers of change. He appealed to the Committee to identify the champions and good practices in the system and to harness and nurture those for the entire workforce. Mr. Ellis concluded by encouraging United Nations system entities to deepen their engagement on the issue and offered the support of the 25 young people who comprised the Future Generations Global Ambassadors Network in implementing the Common Principles.

26. The co-leads expressed appreciation for the support and comments received from Mr. Ellis and HLCP members. They underscored the importance of unpacking the Common Principles, as well as capturing knowledge and learning from one another in the process. They highlighted the opportunity to accelerate and build on normative frameworks to support the rights of future generations and the need to draw connections to and use the Common Principles to inspire the United Nations 2.0 process and the Summit of the Future. The co-leads also suggested a deeper reflection, possibly in the form of a paper prepared by the Core Group, on how the Common

Principles could be leveraged to consciously evolve the multilateral system to enable it to act in situations of uncertainty and take into account unintended consequences of some of the global decisions through scenario planning and capacity-building across the United Nations system. They further called on all entities to operationalize the Common Principles.

27. In concluding, the Chair recognized the robust endorsement of the Common Principles, with minor amendments. She encouraged entities to consider the operationalization of the Common Principles in their respective entities and invited members to become ambassadors within their entities for thinking into the future. She also asked the core group, under the leadership of UNICEF, UNEP and the United Nations University, to unpack the Common Principles, including by identifying capacities and skills needed in the United Nations system to deepen understanding, and promote follow-up actions.

Conclusion

28. **The Committee took note of the results of the stocktaking exercise and approved the draft United Nations System Common Principles on Future Generations, subject to the incorporation of final comments made during the discussion, for onward transmission to CEB for endorsement. The Committee supported the Core Group's recommendation to unpack the Common Principles, with a view to supporting their operationalization in United Nations system entities, and invited the Core Group, under the leadership of UNICEF, UNEP and the United Nations University, to take the work forward on the basis of the Committee's discussion, for review by HLCP at its forty-sixth session.**

B. New global public goods: international data governance

29. Introducing the item, the Chair noted the importance of data for the United Nations system and Member States in a world of increasing digitization and recalled that data was a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda. HLCP work on data governance had linkages to the digital technology-related proposals of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism as well as to ongoing discussions by Member States in various forums, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as well as within the context of consultations on the proposed Global Digital Compact. She suggested that the draft paper entitled "International data governance: pathways to progress" and its addenda could form a strong analytical reference for United Nations system entities to engage in intergovernmental processes and support Member States in managing the digital transformation. The Chair expressed her appreciation to the HLCP working group on international data governance for the preparation of the documents and welcomed the co-leads, the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Angela Me, and the Director of Data and Analytics at the World Health Organization, Stephen MacFeely, to present the paper.

30. Mr. MacFeely identified data as a defining issue in modern times, noting that vast amounts of data were produced and consumed daily. The manner in which data was managed had implications for the digital economy, education and privacy, among others, and was closely linked to other topics addressed by the Committee, such as intergenerational equity and inequalities. The work on data governance sought balance between data concentration, equity, security and openness. The working group approached the issue not only from a statistical perspective, but also applied a policy and multidisciplinary lens by engaging with agencies from across the United Nations system as well as expert stakeholders contributing to the paper. The

considerable length of the paper and its addenda reflected the extent of ongoing activity inside and outside the United Nations system, and the growing expectations for the United Nations to demonstrate leadership in that area. Mr. MacFeely outlined the key elements of the paper, including a case for international data governance, the costs of inaction, a short vision for international data governance and proposals for next steps.

31. Ms. Me stated that the vision proposed in the paper was human rights-based and aimed at improving peoples' lives. For a global data governance framework to effectively address the challenges of the twenty-first century, there needed to be a set of agreed principles, a process for decision-making and an implementation mechanism. She mentioned the dilemmas that the working group had extensively discussed, including whether to support bottom-up or top-down approaches and whether to advocate for Member States-led intergovernmental mechanisms or for other mechanisms with non-government actors and other stakeholders having equal footing with Member States. She proposed exploring the development of a potential data compact and for the United Nations system to identify actions that could advance the vision outlined in the paper, as well as finding ways for the system to advocate and support intergovernmental processes. Actions could also be taken within the United Nations system to advance data governance, including through the implementation of the System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics and by developing data principles for the United Nations system.

32. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee expressed strong support for the paper and its addenda and thanked the co-leads for the collaborative and inclusive process in developing them. The Committee also agreed with the proposal to follow up the paper with additional work relating to the normative foundations and potential implementation mechanisms including through a data compact. Cognizant of the linkages between data and other areas of work across the United Nations system, members encouraged the working group to connect its work on international data governance with broader work around digital technologies. In that context, members appreciated that the proposals in the paper were aligned with the recommendations of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. Members supported the view that the United Nations system could play an important role to promote international data governance that was grounded in human rights, promoted sustainable development and unlocked data for public good.

33. All members expressed full support for the vision outlined in the paper, and the discussions turned to mechanisms or tools that would facilitate the implementation of the vision. Various proposals were suggested, such as a call to action; a data compact; a platform; or infrastructure to leverage digital public goods. Accountability was seen as a key component of data governance for all data holders, including the private sector, as were accountability mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of international data governance. Practical approaches such as privacy by design, privacy by default and addressing the use of data contextualization measures, as well as the need for harmonization and interoperability, were suggested as areas worthy of additional inquiry.

34. The Committee highlighted the importance of further advancing the normative dimensions of international data governance. The speed of progress in governance and regulation was not keeping pace with technological innovation; thus, careful consideration of timelines and key milestones was required to advance the work towards a data governance framework. Members underlined the importance of the human rights-based approach, which included considerations of data protection and privacy, as well as other human rights, while noting that more work was needed to map international human rights norms and standards that applied to data more comprehensively. Concerns around the unequal extraction of value from data

resulting from existing business models and the risk of widening inequalities due to asymmetric capabilities and the digital divide led to considerations of how the benefits, costs, rights and responsibilities related to data were distributed within and across countries, especially with regard to vulnerable and historically excluded populations. The gender dimension was also brought forward as an area for consideration. In that context, it was noted that the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-seventh session addressed issues of safeguards, transparency and accountability for human rights violations. Members agreed that international data governance would shape the future and therefore its normative foundations were an important topic for the Committee to consider at an upcoming session.

35. Members also acknowledged the importance of the economic dimensions of international data governance. Although data was not only a commodity, there were trade-offs between the protection of data and the sharing of data, including for economic benefit; this was also evident in the tension between fostering innovation and promoting competition. There would be a benefit to further exploring those and other economic considerations in deliberations on the normative foundations. The notion and practice of the solidarity economy was suggested as a potential model for maximizing well-being as well as economic returns, including the distribution of the returns.

36. Members recognized the need for multi-stakeholder engagement in the work on international data governance, including the engagement of civil society and the private sectors. Currently, the private sector held much of the data and determined how the data was to be used, with limited regulation. While some regulations had been implemented in some jurisdictions, they were not universal and raised questions around accountability. The issue of how to unlock data from both the private sector and the public sector for global public good was also suggested as an area that could be further explored.

37. Data was also seen not as an end in itself but as an important tool for policymaking, including to promote sustainable development and prevent conflicts. It was suggested that new sources of data, including big data, could complement official statistics, and that the disaggregation of data, including by gender, could also aid in policymaking. Capacity-development support for Member States and communities to be able to collect, analyse, use and govern data, including strengthening national statistical offices, was suggested as an area for further action. The leadership role of the United Nations system as one of the custodians of global public good data along with other multilateral entities to support Member States and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals were affirmed.

38. The co-leads, Ms. Me and Mr. MacFeely, expressed appreciation to the members for their support and contributions. They acknowledged the importance of multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental approaches, the infrastructure and mechanisms needed for data governance, monitoring and accountability within and outside of the United Nations system, and issues relating to equity and human rights. The co-leads echoed the importance of the link between data and policy, including the use of data by communities, and again emphasized that the United Nations system could play a strengthened role as one of the custodians for global public good data. They also shared the sense of urgency of the task, noting that most data that would exist in the world had not yet been created, and it was important for this work to progress at a rapid pace.

39. In closing, the Chair acknowledged the complex nature of international data governance and the importance of getting ahead of the curve on this issue and keeping abreast of its fast evolution. In this regard, she praised the paper and its addenda as

valuable contributions. The issue of governance through a human rights-based and multistakeholder approach was critical considering that most data was currently outside of government purview. The Chair suggested exploring out-of-the-box governance approaches and learning from different experiences to better understand which approaches would be most effective, including for enhancing the rights of communities and individuals.

Conclusion

40. The Committee approved the draft paper entitled “International data governance: pathways to progress”, subject to the incorporation of final comments made during the discussion, for onward transmission to CEB for endorsement.

41. The Committee requested the working group on international data governance, under the leadership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, to explore the normative foundations of an international data governance framework, with a view towards developing international data governance principles grounded in human rights and sustainable development that promote accountability, agility and fairness; and to further investigate the feasibility of mechanisms and/or tools to advance international data governance in the context of United Nations system support to intergovernmental processes.

IV. Strengthening the impact and visibility of the United Nations system in relation to reducing inequalities and Goal 10

42. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that HLCP, at its forty-third session, had considered a proposed new United Nations system agenda for equality prepared by the inequalities task team, which had included five overarching policy-level recommendations for change, to break from the status quo and reposition the United Nations system to better address inequalities. Members had welcomed the proposal as bold and thought-provoking and had been generally supportive of the recommendations. However, members had not been able to reach consensus on all its recommendations, particularly the one on the global financial system, and the Committee had agreed to deepen the discussion on the subject. Members had also foreseen a role for the task team in developing a plan to take forward the agreed recommendations, which prioritized and sequenced the implementation of actions, as well as indicated which mechanisms or actors would be responsible for driving each forward. At the current session, the Committee had addressed the item through two related sub-items: a “big picture” reflection on moving towards a more equitable global order, with a focus on its financial dimensions, and a discussion on deepening the United Nations system’s impact on inequalities.

A. Reflection on moving towards a more equitable global order

43. In her framing remarks, the Chair observed that the issue of inequality had been central to the Committee’s discussion held on 22 March and had indeed served as a connecting theme across all items on the HLCP agenda, as well as a cross-cutting issue for the achievement of the Goals and proposals contained in Our Common Agenda. She asserted that addressing and reducing inequalities would remain critical for the Committee’s work. In sharing her reflections on inequalities, the Chair observed five major divides that could form a useful basis for conceptualizing and understanding the issue, as well as possible pathways for reducing inequalities,

namely: economic power; political power and trust; gender; climate change; and knowledge and capacity. She encouraged members to consider the reflection as an opportunity to identify ways for the United Nations system to come together on the issue and find potential entry points for working towards a more equitable world. The Chair welcomed the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank Group, Indermit Gill, and invited him to share his perspectives on the issue.

44. In his intervention, Mr. Gill expressed his appreciation for the Chair's invitation to contribute as a lead discussant on the topic. He framed his remarks around three key dimensions of the issue that influenced the work of the World Bank Group: domestic inequalities, inequalities in the international financial architecture and intergenerational equity.

45. Regarding domestic inequalities, he highlighted the World Bank report entitled *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022: Correcting Course*, which provided a thorough look at the global landscape of poverty in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. It had revealed that global progress on poverty reduction had come to a halt after decades of improvement and that global inequality had in fact risen in 2020 as income convergence between countries reversed. To counter that trend, he suggested a focus on broad-based economic growth, investments in human capital, and well-targeted social protection programmes, pointing to the role of fiscal policies in offering opportunities for policymakers in developing countries to fight poverty and inequality.

46. Concerning inequalities in the international financial architecture, he noted that existing mechanisms for sovereign debt restructuring and international safety nets were not adequate to address the complex challenges currently faced by many developing countries. He recalled recent examples in which debt default resulted in rising poverty and a decade of lost growth. He saw value in the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund working with the World Bank Group on more sensible sovereign debt restructuring mechanisms that addressed multilateral, bilateral and private sector debts.

47. With regard to intergenerational inequalities, Mr. Gill focused on the effects of climate change on poverty reduction and economic development. Many countries, especially developing countries, were already suffering from the consequences of climate change. Consequently, sustained support in the form of loans, including on concessional terms, was required to make the necessary investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation to secure development benefits for future generations.

48. Observing that lack of data was a major challenge, Mr. Gill appreciated the collaboration between entities in the United Nations system and the World Bank Group in the area of data and statistics. He encouraged further cooperation to support national statistical systems, particularly in areas such as household and enterprise surveys, and to enhance data transparency.

49. In the ensuing discussion, a recurring theme was the divide in economic power at the international level. Members lamented the absence of a well-functioning international safety net, echoing calls for reform of the international financial architecture and the need to ensure governments' capacity to deliver on the Goals. Gaps in and limitations of the current international debt architecture in terms of debt transparency, restructuring and resolution, in relation to both public and private debt, were highlighted as areas that needed to be addressed by the international community. Members stressed that setbacks on many indicators of progress were caused by debt restructuring, or by austerity measures to avoid debt restructuring. While initial advances in strengthening support to countries were welcomed, calls were made for enhancing cooperation between the United Nations system and international financial

institutions to set up a more effective international safety net, to make the financial system less short-term focused and crisis-prone, and to fully integrate the Goals into the international financial architecture. Forthcoming meetings, including the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Summit of the Future, could be leveraged to explore reforms.

50. In deliberating on actions to address economic divides within countries, members stressed the importance of effective fiscal policies. Progressive taxation was seen as a crucial source of additional revenue mobilization, an avenue to promote social mobility and a tool to provide more fiscal space for governments to make investments as well as to protect the vulnerable. Members suggested further international cooperation on taxation matters to prevent a race to the bottom. In addition to taxation, remittances from migrants were also acknowledged as a growing source of financial flows. It was also important that critical investments in social protection and healthcare were not overly dependent on external financing but also supported by domestic revenue so that they were sustainable. The use of fiscal policies for social protection, such as cash transfers and investments in health and education, and the promotion of growth were not seen as mutually exclusive; rather, rising inequalities were seen as undermining growth and macroeconomic stability. Protecting spending on health, education and the vulnerable, even in periods of fiscal consolidation, including to meet the human rights obligation of States, was underlined. Economic, social and cultural rights were not commodities only for those who could afford them, and the principles of necessity, reasonableness and proportionality had to be considered when contemplating austerity measures.

51. In addition to the economic dimension, the political power and trust divide – where inequalities were undermining the social contract between people and government – received considerable attention in the discussion. Worsening inequalities were adversely affecting social stability and trust in public administration. Limitations in fiscal space hampered the ability of governments to protect and realize the human rights of their populations, and specific groups such as children and youth, racial minorities, older persons, people with disabilities and migrants might be disproportionately affected or marginalized. Spatial inequalities were also of concern as current policies in urban planning locked in impacts for future generations, and inequalities in the tenure of land appeared to be further intensifying. In addition, the recent experience of the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted vulnerabilities for many societies, and sustained investments in pandemic preparedness were seen as critical. Therefore, members advocated for investments to protect vulnerable groups, policies to promote stability and actions to build trust in society.

52. On social inequalities, members felt that the widening gender divide was of particular concern in the light of the pandemic. Given the disproportionate impact of inequalities, investments in gender equality for present and future generations were encouraged, especially those that targeted long-term social protection and prioritized the most vulnerable groups. Country-level data demonstrated that social protection was also an entry point for the broader financial inclusion of women and created pathways for women's entry into the labour force. Tools for countries to assess the gender responsiveness of the economic response and recovery from the pandemic had been developed to further enhance gender equality. Relating to the discussions on fiscal space, the issuance of gender bonds to unlock additional financing for gender equality was also being pursued.

53. Members also referred to the climate-related existential divide, acknowledging that climate change, biodiversity loss and mounting pollution could not be ignored. Addressing inequalities also needed to take into consideration planetary boundaries,

and therefore a more equitable distribution of ecological space, to realize the right to development and provide opportunities for present and future generations. An energy transition away from carbon pollution and investments in resilience and adaptation were needed at scale and over a long-term horizon. The financial system, including central banks and regulators, also needed to better account for and accurately price disaster risks. In addition to mitigation and adaptation efforts, the agreement to create a loss and damage fund could provide crucial support for affected countries, and additional fiscal space could potentially be unlocked through debt-for-climate or debt-for-nature swaps. Developing countries were already disproportionately affected by climate change while there was also unequal access to technologies that could benefit them such as early warning systems. The perspective of intergenerational equity was focused on what was owed to future generations, including a healthy planet that sustained communities.

54. Members emphasized the need for the United Nations system to help to bridge the knowledge and capacity divide. Capacity development for policymakers and the broader community through education was seen as crucial to addressing inequalities, particularly in light of rapid technological change, so that governments could leverage innovations for public benefit while also enacting policies to reduce technological inequalities. Investments in education were broadly supported by members; however, education in itself was not seen as sufficient to provide opportunities for all, given changes in the labour market, particularly the inadequate number of jobs for highly educated young people. Beyond education, promoting innovation was suggested, including engaging young people, women, and small and medium enterprises in the intellectual property system. Bringing new technologies such as radiotherapy machines to countries that lacked them was seen as a means of reducing the knowledge and capacity divide. Effective State capacities in data collection from both traditional and non-traditional sources, in revenue administration to effectively collect taxes, and in negotiations with foreign partners were all areas of importance. Additional capacities in new technologies and in data science were needed for developing countries to be able to take advantage of new forms of data. Crucially, governments also needed the capacity to effectively price externalities to shift towards sustainable development and use metrics beyond GDP to measure progress.

55. In response to the deliberations, Mr. Gill expressed appreciation for having had the opportunity to participate in the discussion and addressed a number of issues raised by members, including the importance of overcoming gender inequalities; resolving sovereign debt issues, including debt transparency, debt sustainability and debt restructuring; strengthening education, health and social protection in low-, lower-middle- and middle-income countries; bridging the digital divide; updating poverty reduction strategies; directing more support towards lower-middle-income countries; and mobilizing resources for climate finance without diverting funding away from development.

56. The Chair thanked Mr. Gill and the members for their thoughtful contributions to a very rich discussion. HLCP had lived up to its think tank function, demonstrating that it was the right forum to have deeper conversations on complex and difficult issues and to stress-test the United Nations system's understanding of key topics. The deliberations had brought to the fore some fundamental tensions around issues such as growth versus redistribution, present versus future needs, mitigation versus adaptation and national versus global action. She noted that, as was pointed out during the discussion, one way to approach the issues or tensions was to consider the impact of actions and decisions on poor people, human rights and the environment. Enumerating various facets of the five divides that she had identified in her opening remarks, the Chair emphasized the breadth, scale and complexity of the issue and the need to remain seized of it. The United Nations system had a wealth of knowledge

and expertise – individual and collective strengths – that needed to be leveraged for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Summit of the Future.

B. Deepening the impact of the United Nations system on inequalities

57. Building on the previous item, the Chair reiterated that members had discussed a paper on a proposed new United Nations system agenda for equality at its forty-third session but had not been able to reach a consensus on its recommendations and, as a consequence, HLCP was not able to consider a revised proposal. Nevertheless, the issue remained critical and the United Nations system needed to continue to work to combat inequalities. In recognition of that reality, the discussion aimed to identify actions that United Nations system entities could implement to deepen the United Nations system's impact on inequalities. The Chair acknowledged the leadership of the co-leads of the inequalities task team, namely the Director of the United Nations System Coordination Division of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Aparna Mehrotra; and the Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Craig Mokhiber. In addition, she also acknowledged the support of their colleagues, namely the Policy Advisor and Deputy Chief of Research and Data at UN-Women, Laura Turquet; and a Human Rights Officer within the Sustainable Development Section of OHCHR, Thérèse Björk. She also thanked the task team for preparing the draft prioritized action plan that was before the Committee.

58. Mr. Mokhiber recalled that HLCP had taken up the topic in 2015, with CEB subsequently endorsing the explicitly human rights-based United Nations system shared framework for action on equality and non-discrimination² in 2016. Subsequent monitoring of the Framework had led the Committee to agree in 2019 to reconstitute an inter-agency task team on inequalities – the HLCP inequalities task team – to strengthen implementation. At the Committee's forty-second session in 2021, the task team had been asked to produce a foundational reflection paper to consider the state of inequalities in the world and propose how to shift the approach of the United Nations system to increase impact. The task team had agreed by consensus on a draft that was bold, transformational and grounded in United Nations norms, values and standards. However, bringing it to the full Committee at the forty-third session revealed a division among members that could not be overcome. Mr. Mokhiber recalled that an entity could not accept the task team's call for economic and fiscal policies to be fully aligned with United Nations norms and standards. He nevertheless recognized that the process had been useful to identify points of disagreement that presented obstacles to system-wide coherence, which was the first step towards addressing them in a meaningful way. Reiterating that inequalities would remain of concern to HLCP, he suggested that the paper (many of the elements of which had been included in the plan being introduced that day) could serve as an internal reference for further discussion, including on the issues that were generated by the debate.

59. Ms. Mehrotra thanked the United Nations system entities who had participated in the task team and produced the proposed new United Nations system agenda for equality. She underscored the merit in bringing the differences in views among members of the United Nations system to the fore because it created an opportunity to address them. At the same time, she raised the possibility of the Committee adjusting its operating modalities to work by "substantial consensus".

² This endorsement resulted in the 2017 publication *Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development: A Shared United Nations System Framework for Action*.

60. Noting that 18 entities had contributed to the draft prioritized action plan to increase the impact and visibility on reducing inequalities, Ms. Mehrotra briefly highlighted some of the actions, which were clustered across 12 categories. She also encouraged members to identify activities they could lead. She particularly underscored the importance of inequalities being visibly addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Summit of the Future, and urged members to ensure that their entities made a concerted effort to elevate the issue. Observing that the implementation of the prioritized action plan marked a shift to an operational phase, Ms. Mehrotra saw that as a natural conclusion to the term of the task team.

61. Members were supportive of the draft prioritized action plan, with several representatives indicating their interest in engaging in specific activities or committing to follow up in writing. In that context, the need for a clearer understanding of the leadership arrangements for the various activities was voiced. There were no objections to the co-lead's suggestion to conclude the inequalities task team's mandate, with some members recognizing that the work should be operationalized outside of HLCP. The Committee's method of working by consensus was seen as a valuable asset, in particular for supporting the implementation of intergovernmental mandates in a coherent and coordinated manner.

62. Over the course of the discussion, members highlighted how their entities were contributing to reducing inequalities and offered a number of suggestions and observations relating to the draft action plan. Notably, with respect to the joint activities in support of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and Summit of the Future, it was suggested that it could be useful to look more closely at how inequalities fundamentally interacted with sustainability and resilience as well as to more systematically consider complementarities and trade-offs in pursuit of solutions. Furthermore, in terms of raising the visibility of inequalities in intergovernmental processes, the role of the Commission for Social Development as the "home" for Goal 10 was emphasized, as was the potential to tap into the 2025 World Social Summit proposed in Our Common Agenda. The potential to use the integrated national financing framework to align financing to help tackle inequalities in line with national development priorities was highlighted. As a contribution to measuring impact, it was proposed that the United Nations Sustainable Development Group could try to refine the process of collecting information on the resources being spent by the United Nations development system on Goal 10. Attention was also drawn to the World Income Inequality Database, hosted by the World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), as a useful reference.

63. Concluding the item, the Chair noted the overall positive feedback for the draft prioritized action plan and invited members to send any further comments to the HLCP secretariat to be reflected in the final iteration. She recognized the extraordinary work by the inequalities task team under the leadership of Mr. Mokhiber and Ms. Mehrotra to unpack some of the most complex and difficult issues in the broader United Nations system. She reiterated that the draft of the proposed new United Nations system agenda for equality could not be endorsed by the Committee; however, she assured members that HLCP would continue to address the imperative of tackling inequalities in its work. That being the case, the Chair underscored that HLCP ad hoc mechanisms were meant to be time-bound, and that, with the small groups of entities taking specific action items forward to deepen the United Nations system impact on inequalities through the prioritized action plan, it was an appropriate moment to conclude the mandate of the task team. Finally, the Chair stressed the importance of maintaining the practice that HLCP take decisions by consensus in support of its mandate to promote system-wide coherence and coordination.

Conclusion

64. **HLCP members were invited to provide feedback in writing on the draft prioritized action plan to the HLCP secretariat, including to indicate their entity's interest in leading or contributing to elements of the plan. This, along with oral feedback noted during the discussion, will be reflected in the plan's final iteration, to be taken forward by the identified actors.**

65. **The Committee agreed to conclude the mandate of the inequalities task team.**

V. Human rights of older persons

66. The Chair invited the Committee to turn its attention to the agenda item on the human rights of older persons and recalled that the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General had deliberated on the issue in September 2022, concluding that issues related to older persons and their human rights needed to be mainstreamed in the work of the United Nations system. To this end, the Committee decided to formalize the establishment of a time-bound Inter-Agency Group on Ageing and to develop a United Nations strategy on older persons and ageing. During the Executive Committee meeting, it was recommended that relevant work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Group to implement those actions could be brought to the attention of HLCP. The Chair thanked the Inter-Agency Group for the preparation of the discussion note outlining their approach, and welcomed the presenters: namely the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Marion Barthélemy; and the Chief of the Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section at the OHCHR New York Office, Rio Hada. She also acknowledged the contribution of the Chief of the Programme on Ageing Section within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Amal Abou Rafeh.

67. In her remarks, Ms. Barthélemy observed that a gradual and largely irreversible shift towards an older population was already underway in most countries and that by 2030, the target date of the Sustainable Development Goals, older persons were projected to globally outnumber youth and reach twice the number of children under five. People were living longer lives; hence, reaping the benefits of longevity for sustainable development would require incorporating a life-course perspective into policies. Noting that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was the focal point on ageing in the United Nations system, Ms. Barthélemy recalled that the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, launched by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Development Programme in 2017, was an informal network of interested United Nations system entities that sought to coordinate on issues of relevance to ageing and to raise the profile of older persons within the United Nations system. She highlighted that, for the first time in the review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2022, there had been acknowledgment by some Member States and civil society that an international legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons would complement and reinforce the Madrid Plan of Action, 2022.

68. In introducing the discussion note, Mr. Hada reminded the Committee that, in the context of the dialogues on inequalities held during the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, a specific recommendation had been made to promote the creation of a convention to protect the rights of older persons. He also recalled that the Human Rights Council had established the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, who regularly reported on the rights of older persons and on the need for a convention, a call that was also supported by many civil society organizations and national human rights institutions. Mr. Hada

reminded members that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed systemic inequalities and gaps, including age discrimination that was deeply rooted in ageism, inadequate health services for older persons and gaps in social protection. The pandemic had served as an important wake-up call to Member States and the United Nations system on the need for increased attention and collaboration on the topic, further underscored by the launch of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030). Mr. Hada further noted that, since the Secretary-General's policy brief on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons had been issued in 2020, there had been a growing momentum among Member States to accelerate the discussion towards a convention under the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly, and the Human Rights Council. Mr. Hada emphasized the timeliness and importance for maintaining momentum of the Executive Committee decision to mainstream the topic of older persons and their human rights across all levels of the United Nations system, including in Our Common Agenda and the preparations for the Summit of the Future. The working group was pursuing a gradual, phased approach with two outputs: (a) common messages to mobilize action; and (b) a paper outlining approaches towards developing a United Nations system strategy.

69. In the ensuing discussion, members recommended that linkages between the United Nations system's work on ageing and older persons and key documents and processes, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Decade of Healthy Ageing, and opportunities arising from the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Summit of the Future, be made more explicit. It was also underscored that engaging Member States was crucial for increasing the effectiveness of ongoing work in the United Nations system and that the system needed to increase its advocacy in order for the issue of ageing to become more visible. In that context, the United Nations' partnerships and advocacy for the rights of people with disabilities was raised as a good practice. The discussion highlighted that older persons represented a large and growing constituency that had been neglected by the existing normative instruments and increasingly subjected to violations of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights on the basis of their age.

70. Members emphasized the need to adopt a more holistic approach that viewed older persons as individuals first, which meant protecting their rights, countering ageism and age-based discrimination, and addressing social isolation to project a positive image of ageing and highlight the crucial roles that older persons play in societies, including their contributions as workers, caregivers, volunteers, and repositories of knowledge, social capital and norms. It was suggested to think more in depth about the impact of climate change on different age groups, in particular on older persons, and to think about older persons as agents of change, as consumers, and as a group that could make important contributions, for example in the context of the decarbonization of pension funds. Members underscored the need to consider the strong gender dimension to population ageing, reflected in the entrenched discrimination and cumulative inequalities that women experienced over their lifetime, but also in the important interconnection between age, gender and securing care for families.

71. With regard to the programmatic level and work on humanitarian responses, social protection and safety net programmes, it was proposed to strengthen efforts to reach that demographic group. Members also stressed that older persons should have equal opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to use technology effectively and safely, and that governments and organizations should invest in programmes for older persons so they could fully participate in the digital age. The issues of lifelong learning and its financing, skills development, and learning as a public good were raised as particularly relevant for older persons and retired workers, who also represented an important source of expertise for capacity-building in the work

context. Members advocated for better inclusion of older persons in decision-making processes. To better respond to specific needs and improve policies, it was suggested to address the data problem inherent in surveys that reduced age brackets to “beyond 60” so as to obtain more granular data.

72. Responding to the Committee’s comments and feedback, Ms. Barthélemy and Mr. Hada emphasized that efforts needed to be made to explicitly and directly address the structures, attitudes and practices that violated the rights of older persons and increased the risks and vulnerabilities they experienced. They emphasized that the perspectives and expertise of older persons in identifying challenges, opportunities and solutions should inform the work of the Inter-Agency Group. Thinking about older persons required an intergenerational approach. The presenters invited interested entities to join the Inter-Agency Group, which intended to adopt a cross-disciplinary approach and work further on specific aspects such as intersectionality. In closing the segment, the Chair thanked the presenters for their briefing and encouraged the Inter-Agency Group to reflect in their work moving forward the many dimensions relating to ageing that had surfaced during the discussion.

Conclusion

73. HLCP welcomed the initiative and provided feedback and guidance to the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing on their proposed way forward in developing a document that would support age-responsive and human rights-based approaches in the work of the United Nations.

VI. Any other business

A. Transitioning the Foresight Network into a Foresight Community of Practice

74. The Chair called attention to the proposal prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the coordinator of the HLCP Foresight Network to gradually transition the Foresight Network towards a more open and informal Foresight Community of Practice. The new community would operate under the leadership of UNESCO alongside three other similar communities on innovation, data and behavioural science that were supporting the vision of the Secretary-General to strengthen United Nations capabilities to better address the challenges of the twenty-first century. HLCP members had been asked to consider the proposal in advance of the session on a no-objection basis. The Chair noted that no objections had been voiced. On that basis, she confirmed that the Committee approved the proposal and requested the HLCP secretariat to work with UNESCO to ensure a smooth transition.

Conclusion

75. The Committee approved the proposal for a gradual transition of the Foresight Network into a new Foresight Community of Practice, coordinated by UNESCO, and requested the HLCP secretariat to work closely with UNESCO to take the appropriate actions to effect a smooth transition that would benefit all.

B. A United Nations system common approach on pollution

76. The Chair invited the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the UNEP New York Office, Ligia Noronha, to provide a short update on the development of a United Nations system common approach on pollution.

77. Ms. Noronha recalled that, at their October 2021 meeting, the senior officials of the United Nations Environment Management Group had agreed to prepare a United Nations system common approach to pollution to provide a framework for collective action in support of the United Nations Environment Assembly implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”. At a meeting of the Senior Management Group in October 2022, the Secretary-General had asked that a common strategy on chemical pollution be developed; the existing process under the United Nations Environment Management Group was subsequently mobilized to respond to the request. In November 2022, the United Nations Environment Management Group established a consultative process led by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, involving 44 United Nations system entities. Expected to be delivered to the senior officials of the United Nations Environment Management Group for their approval in September 2023, the common approach would comprise three parts: a United Nations system-wide mapping report on pollution, a framework for accelerating collective action against pollution³ and an implementation plan. Ms. Noronha expressed her commitment to keeping HLCP engaged and informed of progress.

VII. Dates and location of the forty-sixth session of the Committee

78. The Chair proposed the dates of 3 and 4 October 2023 for the Committee’s forty-sixth session, to be hosted by UNICEF at its Global Supply and Logistics Hub in Copenhagen.

Conclusion

79. The Committee approved the dates and location of its forty-sixth session: 3 and 4 October 2023 at the UNICEF Global Supply and Logistics Hub in Copenhagen.

³ The common approach would be guided by existing global agendas on pollution such as the United Nations Environment Assembly implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”; the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards 2020 and beyond; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Reflection on the Committee's contribution to the implementation of processes under Our Common Agenda, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Progress under the Committee's strategic narrative:
 - (a) Duties to the future: intergenerational equity;
 - (b) New global public goods: international data governance.
3. Strengthening the impact and visibility of the United Nations system in relation to reducing inequalities and Sustainable Development Goal 10:
 - (a) Reflection on moving towards a more equitable global order;
 - (b) Deepening the impact of the United Nations system on inequalities.
4. Human rights of older persons.
5. Any other business:
 - (a) Transitioning the Foresight Network into a Foresight Community of Practice;
 - (b) A United Nations system common approach to pollution.
6. Dates and location of the forty-sixth session of the Committee.

Annex II

List of participants

Chair: Ms. Inger Andersen (United Nations Environment Programme)

Acting Secretary: Ms. Xenia Von Lilien (secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination)

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
United Nations	
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Marion Barthélemy
Department of Global Communications	Charlotte Scaddan
Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Peacebuilding Support Office	Awa Dabo
Development Coordination Office	Helena Fraser
Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Guy Ryder (presenter)
Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Sustainable Development Unit	Lara Blanco Rothe
Office for Disarmament Affairs	Gizem Sucuoglu
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Hansjoerg Strohmeier
Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology	Fayaz King
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Craig Mokhiber (co-lead, inequalities task team)
	Rio Hada (presenter)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Raouf Mazou
	Silvia Delgado
Regional commissions	Yera Ortiz de Urbina
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	Paola Albrito
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Fedor Klimchuk
	Angela Me (co-lead, international data governance)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Beth Crawford
International Atomic Energy Agency	Nuno Luzio
	Constanze Westervoss

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Zachary Bleicher
International Labour Organization	Sukti Dasgupta
International Monetary Fund	Robert Powell
International Organization for Migration	Par Liljert
International Telecommunication Union	Ursula Wynhoven
International Trade Centre	Pamela Coke-Hamilton
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	Angeli Achrekar
Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	Jacob Ellis (guest)
Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination	Maaïke Jansen
	Remo Lalli
	Cheryl Stafford
	Li Zhou
	Florian Wintermeyer
	Marta Lorenzo Fernandez
United Nations Children's Fund	Vidhya Ganesh
	Jasmina Byrne (co-lead, duties to the future)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Chantal Line Carpentier
	Moritz Meier-Ewert
United Nations Development Programme	Haoliang Xu
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Eliot Minchenber
	Caroline Siebold
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	Sarah Hendriks
	Aparna Mehrotra (co-lead, inequalities task team)
United Nations Environment Programme	Ligia Noronha
	Nicolas Bertrand
	Isabella Marras
	Andrew Raine (co-lead, duties to the future)
	Christopher Williams

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Name</i>
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	Edlam Yemeru
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Natascha Weisert
United Nations University	David Passarelli
	Adam Day (co-lead, duties to the future)
World Bank Group	Indermit S. Gill (presenter)
	Farhad Peikar
	Harriet O'Brien
World Food Programme	Coco Ushiyama
	Paul Skoczylas
World Health Organization	Werner H. Obermeyer
	Igor Pokanevych
	Stephen MacFeely (co-lead, international data governance)
World Intellectual Property Organization	Edward Kwakwa
World Tourism Organization	Zoritsa Urosevic