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High-level political forum on sustainable development
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Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises:
the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

Synthesis of submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums

Summary

The present synthesis report provides an overall assessment by contributing entities of how multiple global crises have impacted implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the high-level political forum in 2024.¹ It outlines areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions are being delivered in response to the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023. It highlights recommendations for urgent follow-up actions and measures to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises.

¹ Goal 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture; Goal 13 on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

I. Introduction

1. The high-level political forum on sustainable development is a central platform for follow-up and review at the global level of progress towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” In line with paragraph 82 of the 2030 Agenda, the forum facilitates the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned. It also provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up and promotes the system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

2. In paragraph 85, the General Assembly called for thematic reviews of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, to take place at the forum, supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals and the interlinkages between them.

3. In resolution [75/290 B](#), the General Assembly reiterated that “In the conduct of the thematic reviews, the high-level political forum could consider the inputs to the high-level political forum from intergovernmental bodies and forums, including relevant multi-stakeholder forums, and, as appropriate, the findings, research, data and recommendations from the United Nations system.”

4. The President of the Council, therefore, invited the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council and other related intergovernmental bodies and forums, including global platforms and intergovernmental organization-driven mechanisms that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,² to provide relevant inputs in accordance with the theme of

² The present document has benefited from contributions received from the following entities: **(a) Functional Commissions, Expert and Related Bodies of the Economic and Social Council:** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Forum on Forests, United Nations Statistical Commission, Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, Committee for Development Policy, Committee of Experts on Public Administration, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN-Nutrition; **(b) Regional Commissions:** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; **(c) United Nations Intergovernmental and Related Bodies:** Human Rights Council, Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Protecting Human Health and the Environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants, Conference of the Parties of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Committee on World Food Security, World Food Programme, World Health Organization and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, World Meteorological Organization, International Conference on Chemicals Management, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development; **(d) United Nations System:** United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Assembly and the United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Trade Center, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations System Staff College, United Nations University, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office of Project Services, United Nations Group on the Information Society, World Summit on the Information Society Forum, Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development Steering Committee, Sustainable Development Goal 4 Education 2030 Steering Committee,

the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development, “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. The 2024 meeting of the forum is the first since it was convened in September 2023 under the auspices of the General Assembly (the Sustainable Development Goals Summit); it reflects the assessment of progress at the mid-point of implementation and the political declaration adopted as the Summit outcome.

5. The contributions of these intergovernmental bodies do not suggest a formal reporting link to the forum or modify the mandate or governance of any entity. The integral texts of all submissions received are available on the forum’s website.³

II. Impacts of multiple crises on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2024

6. Halfway to the deadline for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world is not on track to achieve targets related to poverty (Goal 1), hunger (Goal 2), climate action (Goal 13), peace and justice (Goal 16), and partnerships (Goal 17).

7. The world is navigating a volatile and complex reality with a sharply raised awareness of critical weaknesses and risks in societal and economic systems, and of humanity’s relationship with—and impacts on—nature. The confluence of planetary-scale environmental crises related to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution pose a serious threat to sustainable development. The enduring and compounding economic and social challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, and worsened by climate change, have reversed gains attained in the medium term and exacerbated pre-pandemic vulnerabilities, leaving more people behind.

8. Forced displacement and armed conflicts in a setting of global fragmentation and geopolitical tensions, along with rising mistrust in government and multilateral institutions, risk undermining the collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda from local to international levels. The compounding effects of the health, environmental and economic crises are exacerbating poverty in many parts of the world. African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States are experiencing ongoing multidimensional impacts in many areas, including food security, unemployment, disrupted supply chains, trade, tourism and financial flows. Many are struggling to maintain macroeconomic stability, with mounting debt, inflationary pressures, and currency devaluation.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

9. Geopolitical, socioeconomic, and climatic disruptions have impeded progress on ending poverty. Global poverty reduction was already slowing after 2015; the COVID-19 pandemic then caused extreme poverty to increase in 2020 for the first time in decades, reversing global progress by three years. Recovery has been uneven, with low-income countries lagging. By 2030, an estimated 575 million people—seven per cent of the world’s population—may still live in extreme poverty.

10. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the narrowing of the fiscal space as countries increased their spending by implementing income tax exemptions, food subsidies, and financial support for households and small- and medium-sized enterprises to ameliorate the pandemic’s effects.

Global Forum on Migration and Development, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, United Nations Population Fund, Universal Postal Union; (e) **Other Intergovernmental bodies and related Organizations:** International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation, International Development Law Organization, Islamic Development Bank, League of Arab States.

³ <https://hlpf.un.org/inputs>.

However, this resulted in high fiscal deficits and debt, which limits their ability to spend more money to curb poverty. Acceleration of inflation aggravated poverty in an environment already threatened by structural economic challenges, high levels of inequality and debt, and insufficient redistributive fiscal policies.

11. The impact on African economies and labour markets has been significant, resulting in an estimated loss of nine to 18 million formal jobs, as the number of people living in poverty in the region increased by 55 million; 23 of the 28 countries with extreme poverty rates above 30 per cent are in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa and conflict zones face heightened challenges. The Asia-Pacific region was making considerable progress in poverty reduction until 2020, when the pandemic reversed hard-won gains, compounded by the cost-of-living crisis in 2022. An estimated 47 million people in the region have been pushed into extreme poverty, as elevated and sustained inflation continues to erode purchasing power and extreme monetary poverty persists. Arab countries estimate that between 2020 and 2023, the number of people living on less than \$1.90 per day grew by 16 million, and multidimensional measures of poverty have worsened. In Latin America and the Caribbean, poverty and inequality remain at excessively high levels, while productivity has stagnated.

12. The growth of informal employment and unpaid care work have had a disproportionately negative impact on women and point to the need for a just transition of employment and social protection. At the same time, geographical, infrastructural, and socio-economic constraints have also widened the digital divide. Broadband services are often less affordable in low-income economies, particularly in the mobile-broadband basket, which is over 20 times less affordable in low-income countries than in high-income countries.

13. Despite countries' efforts to strengthen social protection systems through policies to expand coverage and levels of benefits, which are often reflected in higher percentages of monetary transfers or non-contributory pensions, there are still wide gaps in access to social protection, and its coverage and scope are still insufficient in many parts of the world. There are often discrepancies between poverty and social protection floors in rural and urban areas, and uneven access to basic services such as drinking water and sanitation.

14. Climatic disruptions and disasters have also impeded progress on ending poverty. As poverty is both a driver and consequence of disasters and other crises, the processes that further disaster risk-related poverty are permeated with inequality and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable and marginalized situations. Impoverished people are more likely to live in hazard-exposed areas and are less able to invest in risk-reducing measures. The lack of access to insurance and social protection means that people in poverty are often forced to use their already limited assets to buffer disaster losses, which perpetuates the poverty cycle.

15. Forced displacement and poverty are becoming increasingly interconnected. As forced displacement spikes dramatically across the globe, its impact on SDG progress cannot be disregarded. The poverty rate of refugees, including children, is higher than nationals and may vary from 5 per cent up to 120 per cent in different country contexts. Displaced populations are often left without access to national social protection coverage either by law or by operational barriers, such as limited local government capacity, lack of documentation, or insufficient funding. The same can be said for access to employment and decent work; some 55 per cent of refugees live in countries with restricted or no access to formal employment and 61 per cent live in countries requiring a work permit.

16. The effects of desertification, land degradation and drought also continue to exacerbate poverty by reducing agricultural productivity, displacing communities, increasing conflict over scarce resources, and undermining livelihoods. Limited access to land resources due to degradation hinders income generation opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty among vulnerable populations. In addition, the impacts of chemical pollution disproportionately affect

people living in poverty, informal workers, indigenous peoples and other groups in vulnerable situations.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

17. Food insecurity and famine have risen around the world, due to extreme weather events intensified by climate change, ongoing conflicts and the lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 reports that global hunger, as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment, is still far above pre-pandemic levels, affecting around 735 million people in 2022. This means that 122 million more people are suffering from hunger than in 2019, before the global COVID-19 crisis struck. In addition, approximately 29.6 per cent of the global population, equivalent to 2.4 billion people, did not have constant access to food, as measured by the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity. Among them, around 900 million individuals faced severe food insecurity.

18. Despite progress on reducing child undernutrition, both stunting and wasting, the world is not on track to achieve the associated 2030 targets, nor is any region on track to achieve the 2030 target for low birthweight, which is closely linked to the nutrition of women before and during pregnancy. Steady progress is being seen only in exclusive breastfeeding. Almost 200 million children under five are still affected by undernutrition. Worldwide in 2022, an estimated 148.1 million children under the age of five (22.3 per cent) were stunted, while 45 million (6.8 per cent) were wasted, not attaining their full growth potential. Moreover, one in two preschool-aged children and two in three women of reproductive age worldwide are affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Childhood undernutrition is associated with poorer school performance and lower income-generation capacity in adulthood, perpetuating and aggravating the poverty cycle. Childhood overweight, meanwhile, has significant impacts on children's physical health and psychological well-being. Worldwide, in 2022, an estimated 37 million children under the age of five (5.6 per cent) were overweight.

19. Food insecurity continues to have a disproportionate effect on rural dwellers and women, with a gender gap of 2.4 percentage points in 2022. In the Horn of Africa, 22 million people are currently facing a severe hunger crisis after four consecutive failed rainy seasons. With 85 per cent of refugees currently hosted in developing countries where national resources and capacities are insufficient to meet their needs, food security is largely dependent on the legal frameworks governing refugees' access to rights, including access to land, employment, financial services, association and freedom of movement. Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mali, South Sudan and Sudan are among the countries where acute food insecurity is expected to significantly worsen, driven by conflict, climate change and inequality.

20. The alarming trends in acute food insecurity are the result of multiple, compounding drivers including conflict and insecurity, environmental and climate crises, economic upheaval and public health crises. Combined with rural poverty and inequality, marginalization, population growth and fragile food systems, these drivers erode the foundations of people's livelihoods and undermine the resilience of both communities and States. The increase in both frequency and magnitude of extreme global weather events and climate change negatively impacts all four pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization and stability). The World Bank estimates that their number will grow to 216 million across six world regions by 2050 unless early and concerted action is taken. The impacts of climate change on food security also have strong gender and equity implications where poverty, along with socioeconomic and political marginalization are multipliers of vulnerability.

21. The confluence of crises has exposed inequalities in global agrifood systems, including within and among countries and population groups. Recurrent, interconnected, and prolonged crises are often compounding, reversing progress, and drastically reducing capacities, particularly for the most fragile countries and populations, including smallholder and subsistence farmers,

pastoralists, fisherfolk and wage labourers, to recover and improve their lives. Agrifood systems are among the first and the most impacted by crises, and their lack of capacity to deliver and ensure access to healthy diets has direct negative consequences on both poverty and hunger, as well as on deterioration of nature, with consequent effects on peace and stability.

22. Food and agricultural systems underpin many developing and emerging countries' economic stability and billions of peoples' livelihoods through mainly informal and fragmented local food crops markets as well as large, concentrated and global commodity markets. Approximately 2.7 billion people derive their livelihoods from small-scale food production, while at least 4.5 billion people, almost six out of ten people in the world, rely on agrifood systems for their incomes.

23. The compounding impacts of economic instability, chronic poverty and inequalities, urbanization, trade inefficiencies, wars and conflicts, as well as severe and extreme weather events due to climate change, are major, persisting challenges that continue to negatively affect all aspects of food systems, from food production, food processing, and food distribution and procurement to consumer behavior. This has resulted in a growing number of people unable to access healthy diets, suffering from hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. Over 3.1 billion people in the world—or 42 percent—were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. This represents an overall increase of 134 million people compared to 2019. The affordability of a healthy diet is becoming increasingly critical for households living in peri-urban and rural areas, who show a growing reliance on food purchases. Women and children are those most adversely impacted by food insecurity situations.

24. Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 containment measures and, more recently, the conflict in Ukraine have caused prices of food, energy, and inputs—particularly fertilizers—to rise. High transportation costs and heightened concerns over world food security are coupled with concern about policy measures inconsistent with World Trade Organization principles. The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in international prices of a set of globally traded food commodities, remains high from a historical perspective. Lower wholesale costs have taken time to reach consumers, resulting in high levels of domestic staple food prices at the end of 2023 in many Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs).

25. Agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors of the economy in the face of climate change and extreme weather events, given the dependence on water, weather, soils and climate. The intensification of these key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition trends, combined with the high cost of nutritious foods and growing inequality, will continue to negatively impact nutrition, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups and hindering progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

26. The climate emergency is the biggest economic, social, and environmental threat facing humanity. Climate-related disasters have almost doubled compared to the previous twenty years and projected to reach 560 medium-to large-scale disasters per year by 2030. More than half of all internal displacement around the world is driven by climate-induced disasters. There were 32.6 million new internal displacements due to weather-related events in 2022. Climate change-related declines in agricultural productivity are triggering rural–urban migration, leading to increased pressures on cities and labour markets. Over 600 million children are at a heightened risk of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue and yellow fever, chikungunya, and zika.

27. Current measures to address the climate crisis are inadequate. In the absence of urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly and rapidly across all sectors, the 1.5°C target is in peril, putting the lives and livelihoods of more than 3 billion people at risk globally. Failure to act will lead to exacerbated heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, sea-level rise, and

famines. Anthropogenic climate change and rapid human expansion are currently threatening the disappearance of more than 250,000 species from our planet in a sixth, rapid mass extinction.

28. All countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, land degradation, desertification, sand and dust storms, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods. Deforestation and land degradation resulting from extractive industries and development continue to accelerate climate change by releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and reducing carbon sequestration capacities.

29. Climate change is rewriting the global resource map for assets such as water, arable land and energy while driving migration, displacement, and instability. Increased frequency and intensity of droughts are exacerbating climate vulnerabilities and widening inequalities within and between countries, amplifying the need for resilient adaptation strategies. Communities contributing the least to global emissions are often experiencing the worst impacts of the climate emergency, with forcibly displaced people among the most vulnerable, least able to adapt, and hardest hit. They also encounter significant obstacles in accessing essential resources, technology and finance for effectively adapting to climate change impacts.

30. Collective action, political leadership, and financing are needed to keep the global average temperature increase within the 1.5°C safer limit contained in the Paris Agreement. The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) held in 2023 recognized the need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways and underlined the fundamental role of technology and innovation in facilitating urgent adaptation and mitigation action aligned with achieving the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. In addition, prudent comprehensive disaster and climate risk management will require preparation for a range of negative outcomes associated with varying degrees of warming and to effectively manage unexpected concurrent threats, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes climate adaptation efforts and addressing and minimizing losses and damages resulting from climate change.

31. Digital resilience has become a key asset, with many countries setting up early warning systems or developing emergency telecommunication plans while accelerating digitalization of public services. Yet an expanding digital society creates more electronic devices, e-waste and ICT-related carbon emissions. Only 17.4 per cent of the millions of metric tons of rapidly growing e-waste are formally collected and recycled. Initiatives to enhance early warning systems, promote sustainable data centers, and increase transparency in the greenhouse gas emissions of digital companies are similarly crucial for the ICT sector to reduce its own carbon footprint and help shape the transition towards a sustainable, digital, and green future.

32. Many Governments have limited fiscal space to commit to climate action, especially given the high debt burden faced by least developed countries and countries in conflict. As ongoing conflicts may aggravate climate change challenges and lead to the long-term destruction of natural habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity, they also divert policy attention and financing away from climate action.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

33. Ongoing and new violent conflicts have caused major setbacks to global peace and security. The world is currently in the throes of the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War, undermining countries and regions' ability to eradicate poverty and hunger, mitigate the negative consequences of the climate crisis, and enable strategic alliances to sustain

peace. Many civilians caught in conflict zones do not have reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access to essential goods and services and humanitarian aid.

34. Human rights commitments are not being met, inequality is hindering inclusive decision-making and corruption is eroding the social contract. The interconnected planetary crises are aggravating situations of resource scarcity, competition, and conflicts over land and water resources. Inadequate land governance frameworks and disputes over land tenure rights further exacerbate social tensions and undermine peacebuilding efforts, negatively affecting confidence in public institutions and their ability to achieve justice and equality. The causes and effects of these crises – and the actions needed to address them – are interconnected and deeply rooted in issues of human rights, justice, equity, inclusion, accountability, and good governance.

35. Geopolitical pressures have heightened vulnerabilities to disasters in fragile contexts, necessitating effective disaster risk reduction strategies to mitigate immediate risks, help prevent conflicts, foster peace by enhancing community resilience through inclusive decision-making processes, and build resilience to future shocks. However, challenges such as weak institutions and governance, limited data availability, and constrained human and financial resources hinder such efforts in fragile and conflict-affected areas. Citizens in many countries struggle to access justice and basic legal services due to ineffective institutions and face considerable structural injustices, inequalities, and emerging human rights challenges.

36. The status of women and girls caught in crisis and conflict remains negatively impacted by persistent and long-standing inequalities, including discriminatory laws and low participation in decision making and peacebuilding processes. Women are more likely to experience violence, as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and less likely to receive justice. Financing for justice and gender equality continues to be low, and rarely reaches women’s organizations who are often the first responders to inequalities and discrimination.

37. Over 114 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced, and an estimated 4.4 million people are stateless or of undetermined nationality, as of mid-2023. The true extent of statelessness is likely to be much greater, as approximately half of the countries do not report on it. Discrimination and deliberate exclusion underlie most situations of statelessness. Two-thirds of the world’s stateless populations belong to minority groups. In some contexts, gender discriminatory nationality laws applied against women result in statelessness for their children. More than 460 million children are living in or fleeing from conflict, and susceptible to enslavement, trafficking, abuse and exploitation. Many of these children find themselves in a state of limbo, without official immigration status, education, or healthcare. No country or region is immune to violence against children; every five minutes, somewhere in the world, violence takes the life of another child. Every year, at least one billion children suffer violence.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

38. The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted severe economic damage on the developing world, surpassing the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis. Countries continue to struggle with increasing debt service obligations and a rising cost of borrowing. This precarious financial state has been exacerbated by a series of critical factors, including the rising global interest rates; high food and energy prices prompted by the war in Ukraine and other global conflicts; the lingering effect of the pandemic; and a steep depreciation of many emerging and developing economy currencies. For countries in conflict, financing for sustainable development is a challenge in contexts of shrinking fiscal space, high debt service costs and insufficient domestic resource mobilization. Many low-income and emerging market economies are in or at high risk of debt distress, in danger of defaulting on their debt, including 28 of the world’s top 50 most climate-vulnerable countries.

39. Existing frameworks and institutions are inadequate to incentivize innovation and ensure access to the products of innovation, especially in responding to emergencies. The current context demands a reframing of policy discourse to adjust policies on innovation and innovation ecosystems. Even when policies on information technology exist, implementation is a challenge for countries in conflict due to infrastructure destruction. The current global crises and shifts in the global economy and innovation landscape are reshaping challenges and opportunities for effective multilateral collaboration for science, technology and innovation (STI) solutions.

40. The shift to online work, e-learning, digital government services, and a heightened focus on e-commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic widened the gap for people lacking connectivity. An estimated 2.6 billion people, mainly in remote, rural, and less developed areas, remain without Internet access. Those who remain unconnected now suffer substantial socio-economic penalties. Countries' capacity for conducting survey-based data collection and statistical production, including ability to improve the availability of information and communications technology (ICT) statistics, has also been affected, while enforced digitalization of many aspects of daily life increased the urgency of producing more and better ICT statistics in support of efforts to monitor post-pandemic recovery. The limitations of traditional sources of data for ICT statistics were revealed, with renewed interest in finding innovative and alternative data sources, such as administrative data, big data and data-sharing schemes with the private sector to support digital policymaking.

41. Yet inadequate statistical data governance has led to limited data availability and a lack of data disaggregation, which are all bottlenecks to evidence-based decision-making. Conflicts have compounded difficulties in monitoring progress on targets and indicators in afflicted countries; displaced populations are often excluded from official statistics and development policies.

42. Partnerships and global cooperation are not at levels required to achieve the Goals in full by 2030. While there have been improvements in development aid, remittances, and technology access, funding for development remains a substantial challenge, especially in low-income countries. Enhanced partnerships among Governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector are crucial for mobilizing resources, sharing knowledge, and implementing integrated approaches. However, geopolitical tensions and growing trends towards nationalism in some parts of the world are hindering international cooperation.

III. Sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

43. The Council's functional commissions, expert bodies and intergovernmental forums are aligned in supporting the outcome of the political declaration⁴ adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023, often through agreed conclusions during this year's regular sessions that provide normative guidance for actions in high-impact areas and contain language reinforcing calls to action.

44. An overall increase in collaborative work cited by the 70 entities reporting this year is evidence that the United Nations system is committed to supporting member States and contributing expertise to expanded partnerships for maximum impacts. Below is a brief selection of key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions are being delivered to address multiple crises along transformative pathways, with a focus on the Goals under review this year.

Integrating approaches to interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

⁴ A/RES/78/1.

45. The outcome of the first Global Stocktake provided affirmation of unity and the importance of international collaboration, and yielded tangible outcomes in many areas including mitigation, adaptation, transparency, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. It also emphasized the critical importance of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation. A new work programme aims to ensure just transitions that promote sustainable development, eradicate poverty, and create decent work and quality jobs, including through making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development, the deployment and transfer of technology, and the provision of support to developing country Parties.

46. Innovative financial instruments are increasing access to climate finance, including blended climate finance, which typically combines public and private sector resources to support climate-related projects; climate debt swaps that involve rechanneling a country's external debt service payment into commitments to allocate resources towards climate priorities; and weather-indexed insurance schemes that provide protection to farmers against drought, floods and other climate-related risks. The operationalization of the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage reflects the need and ambition for scaled-up adaptation finance.

47. Integrating human mobility into adaptation and climate change response plans addresses the climate, peace and development nexus and supports preparedness and loss and damages provisions by developing and facilitating safe and regular migration pathways. Reducing remittance costs and leveraging different types of diaspora contributions can further support climate adaptation and green innovation.

48. Disaster risk management policies and actions increasingly integrate climate, biodiversity and pollution aspects through innovative engineering solutions, with a focus on climate resilience and environment-friendly practices for sustainable and inclusive infrastructure projects. Disaster risk governance has been strengthened at all levels; the number of countries with national strategies for disaster risk reduction has risen from 55 in 2015 to 126 in 2022. Innovative procurement strategies are resulting in more sustainable and resilient supply chains. Early warning systems entail global and regional coordination coupled with country-specific mechanisms that underpin the multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) value chain, with multi-stakeholder consultations reinforcing political backing and strategic partnerships.

49. Multilevel climate action is interlinked with cities and urbanization through many types of initiatives, including multi-stakeholder engagement and delivery for integrated management of water, energy, pollution and waste, as well as sustainable transportation. National geospatial and mapping agencies are delivering data and technologies that assist countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Environmental innovation and improved efficiency help reduce waste, pollution and emissions, and go hand in hand with increased productivity, cost savings and competitiveness, making countries more resilient to shocks. Increased awareness and innovation are driving major structural, economic and social transformations in energy and resource efficiency towards new circular business models, thus helping to address climate change. The Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and SEEA Ecosystem Accounting help in building sustainable, resilient systems.

50. The science-policy interface has also been strengthened to address emerging and emergency issues. STI solutions are being successfully applied in harnessing data and data analytics to combat climate change, improve food security and strengthen disaster risk management. Partnerships surrounding the One Health approach have advanced and expanded to include the human-animal interface approach, and consider the links between human, animal and ecosystem health. Activities are being implemented to reduce the risk and mitigate the impact of future emergence of zoonotic and vector-borne, endemic and emerging, infectious and non-

communicable diseases, with a focus on emerging zoonoses that have epidemic or pandemic potential.

51. Biodiversity conservation strategies at local, national and global levels are increasingly focused on progress through well-governed, effectively managed and representative protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), which are a proven method for safeguarding both habitats and populations of species and for delivering important ecosystem services and multiple benefits to people. Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework supports the conservation of at least 30 per cent globally of terrestrial, inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems, including all key biodiversity areas, in effective and equitable, representative and connected systems of protected areas and OECMs, including territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent.

52. In this connection, the threats and the drivers of deforestation are also being addressed through a more holistic and comprehensive landscape approach and through sustainable forest management activities such as protection, afforestation, reforestation and forest landscape restoration. Many countries have taken steps to reduce poverty through community-based forestry and provided substantial financial support to strengthen community forestry and ease poverty for forest-dependent people.

Investing in solutions for sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition

53. Supporting sustainable land management practices led by local and indigenous communities are central to addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty and boosting equitable access to nutritious, traditional foods. Sustainable food systems that promote agrobiodiversity and local food production are nature-based solutions that can positively impact multiple sectors across all dimensions of sustainable development. In this connection, securing control over land elevates its overall value and fosters greater willingness among landholders to invest in and strengthen agricultural productivity; tenure security also promotes adoption of climate-smart practices, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices and long-term development in the sector.

54. Established international partnerships are developing priorities around interconnected areas of agriculture, land and water, combined with pooled resources to deliver best practices and effectively scale research solutions to counterbalance the increasing interconnectedness of food security issues. High-impact initiatives such as Food Systems Transformation and Transforming4Trade, help countries advance sustainable agri-food systems by developing a portfolio in climate change adaptation and a strategy to reduce biodiversity loss in agribusiness, with an expanded portfolio of integrated agro-food parks covering 16 countries.

55. Integrated resilience interventions have shown significant results in diminishing humanitarian needs over time and improving food security levels of targeted vulnerable groups. Ensuring the prioritization of local sources of procurement across the system represents a key means to support local economies and nutritious food systems. Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises are adopting more environmentally sustainable practices, partnering with local financial institutions and smallholder farmers. Alliances are proving to be game changers for small agribusinesses and are helping pave the way for achieving food systems transformation in countries and at the regional level.

56. There is also progress in development of multiple regional-scale commodity value-chain and value-adding programs that incorporate climate-smart agriculture components, resilience building and livelihood development components. The African Trade Exchange Platform (ATEX) is a regional example of innovation that enables pooled procurement of basic commodities to ensure countries have access to scarce supplies in a transparent manner. By integrating suppliers, especially small business and small- and medium-sized enterprises, the

Exchange fosters more inclusive development and contributes to reducing poverty and inequality across Africa.

57. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing is an innovative mechanism facilitating effective management and sharing of plant genetic resources, providing sustainable funding and incentivizing farmers—in particular smallholders in developing countries—researchers and scientists, government officials, and private sector actors to share best practices and transfer knowledge and technology to achieve better conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Ensuring social protection to empower women and reduce poverty

58. Social protection must underpin development efforts around economic development and environmental protection. Such efforts increasingly emphasize adaptive social protection, community-based responses, and risk insurance. Investment in human capital and social protection is proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality. Mobilizing innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, secures adequate levels of social expenditure for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, new technologies and basic social protection. The initiative to scale-up international tax cooperation, fight illicit financial flows, and combat aggressive tax avoidance and evasion represents a critical milestone towards improving developing countries' capacity to mobilize fiscal resources and build up their social contract.

59. Creating jobs and livelihoods through labor market interventions, green jobs, women's economic empowerment, and youth employment include innovative approaches to support local economic development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, trade, and value chains by improving access to productive assets and credit, fostering e-commerce and integrating the informal economy. Transforming the care economy, including through laws, policies and services to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid work and care, further increases women's economic empowerment.

60. Innovative financial instruments are being effectively scaled-up for gender equality and gender-responsive public finance management, promoting women's participation in entrepreneurship and systems of intellectual property. Best practices for social assistance to lift women out of poverty include national programmes for universal social protection, conditional and unconditional cash transfers for the ultra-poor with a focus on women and women-headed households, and social assistance for women in marginalized situations, including migrants. On average, social protection programmes tend to increase a household's food expenditure by approximately 13 per cent, allowing people to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition, protect themselves against climate and economic risk and shocks, and strengthening their resilience. Cash transfers empower individuals to meet their essential needs and address their food and nutrition requirements. Children who participate in school-feeding programmes have shown significant improvement in their micronutrient status.

61. Shock-responsive and inclusive social protection systems are comprised of affordable and equitable access to basic services, in particular quality formal and non-formal education at all levels, and health-care services with acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, as well as access to affordable housing, nutrition and food, and access to employment and decent work, information and communications technology and infrastructure, through advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Equity-focused and gender responsive actions have exponential impacts. Localizing implementation will address multi-dimensional poverty and inequality by mobilizing, empowering, and supporting local stakeholders, strengthening local systems and institutions and helping deliver equitable social services, including for those furthest behind.

62. Innovative efforts to strengthen housing and property tenure are underway, for example in helping cities identify rooftops in informal settlements through an automated process rooted in machine learning and artificial intelligence, for the provision of critical basic services and to enhance tenure security while reducing the time and cost previously needed by the municipality to map such homes manually.

Strengthening institutions through digital governance

63. Digital and other technology innovations are rapidly building a digital economy, transforming government services and integrating artificial intelligence and other Industry 4.0 (or Fourth Industrial Revolution) technologies into industrial strategies, and facilitating access to green technologies in support of climate and water action agendas. Advancement can be seen in the convergence of efforts across existing agendas and actions of relevant multilateral fora combined with improved collection of and access to data, analysis and evidence to inform decisions and reinforce a systemic approach. Comprehensive and multidisciplinary as well as sectoral policy and technical support addresses crises while ensuring long term development across all sustainability dimensions. Sustainable consumption and production patterns contribute to solutions for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution, and their impacts on human health. Understanding use of digital technologies in criminal activities and increasing their use in criminal justice is increasing, with international cooperation to effectively prevent and combat cybercrime and illegal trade in wildlife.

64. Data-driven innovations are becoming more common with the development of frontier technologies providing superior data storage, management and exploitation capabilities, such as artificial intelligence, sensors and the internet of things, supporting the transition towards a circular economy and decarbonization by utilizing digital technologies across various stages of the product life cycle. High-value or critical materials, energy efficiency, and emissions savings all require evidence-based monitoring, and assistance is being provided to Governments to improve their e-waste data collection and statistics. Sustainable digital transformation advocates for responsible practices to reduce environmental impacts, including collection and improvement of e-waste monitoring data to build and maintain a circular economy and address climate change. Data and analysis reinforce green practices in the ICT sector, support wider decarbonization, and encourage sustainability in future digital infrastructure development.

65. Research and development priorities focus on technologies of the future, namely digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and others that are integrated into ecosystems aimed at boosting progress. To keep pace with fast technological development, countries are providing venues for regulatory experimentation of new digital products. A regulatory sandbox, for example, allows for experimentation with technology and business models, and collaborations between stakeholders. Digital innovation can significantly contribute to closing the justice gap, while improving the cost-effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability of institutions. However, implementation of digital technologies must be equitable and inclusive and not give rise to new forms of discrimination.

66. Improving the availability and granularity of data and statistics to measure achievement towards the Goals has recently included actions to define strengthened social and demographic statistics that better reflect society and its connections with the environment and the economy. Engaging with and supporting national statistical offices to ensure refugee inclusion in national statistics has shown an increased political will towards inclusion of displaced and stateless persons in national census, surveys and administrative data systems. Efforts are ongoing to measure progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond Gross Domestic Product, aiming for an inclusive approach. In this regard, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals is undertaking a comprehensive review of the global indicator framework in 2025, to improve the indicator framework for global monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and to provide targeted guidance to countries.

67. Digitalization of public services to counter corruption has increased efficiency and expanded access to services, for example through online e-service platforms, birth and death registration through software, mobiles and hybrid modalities, electronic identity cards, databases to track SDG implementation, smart maps of nature capital to inform land use and policy decisions, genetic databanks to identify victims of violence, digitalizing archives and criminal records, and digital case management systems for referrals on child protection.

68. The voluntary national reviews conducted by countries to measure progress towards the Goals have become an important policy tool for building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for sustainable development, and many countries have integrated the 2030 Agenda into their national development strategies. However, efforts must evolve beyond mapping and reporting to ensure uptake of lessons learned and a more transparent participatory process at the country level that recognizes the role of civil society, creates space for their contributions and incorporates a national learning process with feedback loops to policy and planning mechanisms.

IV. Selected recommendations for urgent actions to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises

69. The following is a selection of recommendations put forward by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, identifying areas where actions are most urgently needed to get back on track to achieve the Goals under review in 2024, and ensure progress across the 2030 Agenda.

Political will for shared commitments

70. Transformative pathways will remain blocked where there is a lack of political will to implement agreed solutions. Member States are urged to fully implement their existing commitments and obligations, particularly with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination of any kind.

71. Reinforcing global solidarity demands scaling-up means of implementation to support developing countries in tackling global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, land and soil degradation, drought, and deforestation. More must be done to foster new economic models that can advance all three dimensions of sustainable development. and increase international technology cooperation and collaboration, including South-South cooperation, and to strengthen and expand infrastructure resilient to climate change at local and regional levels, recognizing the importance of quality infrastructure investment through both foreign and domestic investment.

72. The emerging concept of a human rights economy particularly draws attention to the international human rights law framework that underpins the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including fulfilling official development assistance commitments, improving international debt mechanisms, combating illicit financial flows, international tax cooperation, reforming the international financial architecture and ensuring an inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system. Strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks for the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources, is also an imperative. Addressing the deep-seated causes of inequality and exclusion to achieve progress on an inclusive, human rights-based approach to sustainable development is a high priority, and essential for leaving no one behind.

Systemic approaches for reform

73. Addressing institutional challenges of Goals 1 and 2 together is needed to ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach to hunger and poverty reduction. There is need for

predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance for developing countries, from all sources, to significantly increase resources for ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions. , including extreme and multidimensional poverty, affecting women and girls, including through taking steps towards reform that ensures a stable, inclusive, and sustainable international financial architecture.

74. A systemic approach to addressing both the immediate issues stemming from the food crisis to ensure access to adequate food as part of a social safety net, and the long-term impacts and challenges in food supply chains that involves addressing the drivers of fragility, crisis, and conflict, as they directly impact food security, is imperative. This includes investing in productive activities and projects to improve the livelihoods of the poor and hungry in a sustainable manner through the development of appropriate institutions, functioning markets, a conducive legal and regulatory framework and access to employment, productive resources and appropriate services.

75. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into agricultural policies and projects is another area where reform is most needed, to ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of all women and focus on closing the gender gap in investments and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, sustainable fisheries, and value chains supported by integrated and multisectoral policies.

76. At the same time, support must be scaled-up for the development and implementation of indigenous peoples' own plans, initiatives, and solutions for sustainable development, by providing adequate financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, and by creating enabling environments and platforms for their dissemination and replication and ensure that indigenous peoples are consulted and involved in all stages and levels of implementation.

77. Improve coherence between social protection, food security and nutrition policies and build capacity to increase the number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. Provide universal age-, disability-, gender-responsive and family-oriented social protection systems and promote legal systems or frameworks in care and support policies and infrastructure. Strengthen capacities of national evaluation services to direct public funds towards social policies, place social considerations at the heart of development frameworks, and create enabling environments for promoting care and support systems for social development.

78. In conflict-affected countries, address the root causes of conflict while increasing the predictability of aid and making more effective use of global and country-level funds for peacebuilding and State-building to achieve sustainable development. Do more to establish and support national human rights institutions that can effectively promote and protect human rights and provide rights-based advisory support to Governments. Ensure that women are participate on equal terms with men in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

79. Secure a just transition through strategies that promote climate action, environmental sustainability and resilience-building in a way that reinforces the ambitions to meet all the Sustainable Development Goals. Strategies should be founded on structured and inclusive processes of social and political dialogue based on transformative and strategic thinking that reflects the specific contexts of each country. Coherent policies that minimize trade-offs and maximize synergies among Goal 13 and other Goals can ensure a just and green transition, where developing countries can capture green development opportunities and invest in strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

80. Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and significantly increasing the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests,

as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests, can address multiple environmental objectives, including through increased efforts towards forest and ecosystem restoration actions, and to mainstream and scale up forest-related actions in national development programmes. Both forest and marine protected areas are foundational for nature-based approaches to sustainable development. These successes should be extended to ensure that biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction is conserved and sustainably used, placing a moratorium on deep sea mining and ensuring that an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution has biodiversity at its core.

Leverage innovation and drivers of change

81. It is recommended that governance, policy and institutional environments are strengthened by investing in decentralized cooperation such as partnerships, twin cities and networking between local and regional governments, as a key lever for peace, solidarity and sustainable development. Urban areas should be prepared for dynamic and unpredictable futures. Climate and biodiversity emergencies, violence and armed conflicts, inflationary pressures, displacement and other natural and human-caused disasters manifest most acutely in cities and force local governments to the forefront of the response.

82. The full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of women in all spheres of public life and at all levels, as well as their leadership in decision-making processes must be promoted more fully, including in economic policy, budget and financial processes, public institutions and in designing and implementing poverty eradication policies to address institutional gender biases and promote pro-poor, economic and social policy actions that fully respect the human rights of all women and girls.

83. Strengthen the public sector workforce and promote awareness of the Goals, as a policy imperative. Applying the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to anchor trust in public institutions and administration through accountability, transparency and effective communication, along with promoting sustainability through national budgets and integrating implementation of the Goals firmly into budget processes and procedures, can support a successful public policy ecosystem.

84. The use and capacity of the public and private sector in natural capital accounting based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting should be supported, incorporating the state of natural resources into regular performance assessments and increasing training for Governments in developing countries to analyze climate data and design projects that attract investments from the public and private sectors. Countries should grant access by cities and subnational governments to climate finance, including grants, loans, concessional funding and all other types of potential funds.

85. Global investments in energy transition technologies must remain strong and inclusive of all stakeholder voices. More must be done to strengthen the full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of decision making in climate and environmental action and promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies.

86. Increase collaboration among vital institutional sectors that have been less involved, particularly the insurance industry, which plays a crucial role in covering risks associated with extreme weather events and rising sea levels that can lead to economic losses and damage to infrastructure. Assist local and regional governments that use insurance firms, products, technology and data to help conduct assessments, model risk and quantify potential losses to develop adaptation plans and early warning systems, fund resilience programmes and build local capacity to improve risk assessment.

87. Mobilize broad participation and partnerships with all stakeholders and actively engage in international cooperation and coordination in support of assistance to the most vulnerable. Deepen civic engagement; promote the participation of women and young people in parliamentary and electoral processes as candidates and voters; intensify multilateral public-private partnerships to better align financial support, capacity-building, training and insurance in response to the climate crisis.

88. Enlarge opportunities for peer learning through regular reporting in voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews that have greater analytical depth, incorporate lessons learned from previous VNRs, and include a transparent and participatory process at the country level that recognizes the role of civil society, creates space for their contributions and incorporates a national learning process with feedback loops to policy and planning mechanisms. Strengthen linkages between the voluntary national reviews and the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council and encourage institutional cooperation between human rights and development actors in-country to enhance policy coherence and reduce the reporting burden for countries.

89. To emerge stronger from the current global crises and prepare for unknown challenges ahead, funding statistical development must be a priority for national Governments and the international community. Timely, high-quality and disaggregated data can help trigger more targeted responses, anticipate future needs, and hone the design of urgently needed actions. Governments should increase financing for sustainable national statistical systems to strengthen national statistical capacity. A process towards the development of common terminology and definitions for data governance can help member States navigate this emerging area and address shifts in the larger data world.

Beyond the Summit of the Future

90. Opportunities to advance the 2030 Agenda through ongoing high-impact efforts and continued follow-up on commitments contained in the political declaration are heightened by preparations for the Summit of the Future, to be convened in September 2024. Several intergovernmental bodies and forums are seeking to join forces and collaborate towards a forward-looking and reinvigorated shared vision for the Pact for the Future, to ensure that the outcome will lead to strengthening of the commitment to the 2030 Agenda and renewed and bold actions by all actors.

91. The current climate of political instability and planetary crises, combined with a volatile global economy and the unpredictable nature of new and emerging technologies, demands a new approach to multilateralism that is focused on the practical, immediate steps needed to ensure a strong foundation for progress. The international community must remain optimistic and energetic, grounded in the work necessary to ensure a path to prosperity, peace, and a sustainable future for all.