



**United Nations**

Committee for  
Development  
Policy

## Inputs by the [Committee for Development Policy \(CDP\)](#) to the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

March 2025

### Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

As the United Nations approaches its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the crossroads at which we find ourselves call for an unequivocal reaffirmation of the need for a strong multilateral system; of the values espoused in the United Nations Charter- fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law; and of the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

Trust in the multilateral system relies on its effectiveness. Too many commitments remain unmet, and many aspects of the system remain structurally inadequate in a world that continues to be widely asymmetric, and in which convergence has not proved to be the norm. Responding to those asymmetries and ensuring voice and representation for all countries is a matter of effectiveness, to the benefit of all countries in a deeply interconnected world, as much as of fairness.

The multilateral system must also support, rather than stand in the way, of the capacity, the policy space and the fiscal space of States to address the longstanding goals of poverty eradication, equality, and structural transformation of the economies, as well as new challenges such as those related to the ecological crisis and major technological changes underway. The global trading system needs to be informed by pro-development principles. The institutional structures and norms for financing for development need to be able to deliver results for developing countries in securing debt sustainability and reducing the debt burden which weighs heavily on the public budgets; reducing the cost of borrowing which today is much unjustifiably higher for poor than for rich countries; enabling tax cooperation which is a crucial element in the capacity of countries to mobilize domestic resources; maximizing the potential of multilateral development banks in helping countries advance in structural transformation. Regional institutions have an increasingly important role to play, particularly if inserted in a multi-level architecture that maximizes institutional synergies. In a context of restrictions in official development assistance, there should be a stronger focus of development cooperation in building public administration capacities for domestic resource mobilization, integrated policy design and implementation including productive development and industrial strategies, and disaster risk reduction, to face a fast-changing world in which crises will intensify in frequency and severity. South-South cooperation holds great potential, and the role of AI in the dissemination of policy experiences and lessons should be explored.

The ecological crisis and the crossing of multiple planetary boundaries, as well as the emergence of new industries and opportunities related to efforts to ensure environmental sustainability, are among the key trends shaping the context in which policymakers will navigate development in the coming years and

decades. Policymakers will need to be in tune with these trends and have the capacity to rethink paradigms and ensure feasible strategies.

The objective of securing decent employment remains critical but needs to be complemented with approaches to empower individuals and businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, to take advantage of opportunities in this new and fast-changing setting, including those related to the major technological changes underway.

There is undeniably scope for improvement in certain procedures and practices to ensure development efforts of international organizations and international financial institutions effectively and efficiently reach those – countries and people – furthest behind. These improvements should be undertaken in the framework of efforts to strengthen, not to weaken, multilateral structures and collaboration.

**On the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”**

The CDP is in the process of finalizing analysis on convergence in human and social development. The following recommendations arising from this work are relevant for the ECOSOC theme in 2025:

- The ambitions of the 2030 Agenda call for integrated, strategic, policy responses that can address multiple deprivations. This in turn requires visibility of the interlinkages between different dimensions of well-being or of deprivation. Multi-dimensional metrics provide richer pictures than dashboards in this respect. For example, the UNDP OPHI global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and national MPIs (currently reported as SDG indicator 1.2.2), can be reported alongside the international poverty line and national monetary poverty measures.
- Leaving no one behind requires disaggregated data, including sub-national data, and data disaggregated by age, gender, disability status and other variables.
- Convergence should be assessed both by looking at group-based inequalities and by exploring trends in the poorest of the poor. The reporting and use of these metrics should be encouraged.
- It is important to acknowledge and communicate on successes in the reduction of poverty. Using only relative poverty measures can underplay the very significant advances made by many of the poorest countries, which deserve recognition and sustained support and which provide lessons for other countries and jurisdictions. Showcasing positive experiences based on evidence illustrates what is possible and can be a powerful incentive for action, not just by states but by all actors, particularly in challenging times.

The slow progress in SDG implementation, including reversals in some areas, and persistent poverty across multiple dimensions and rising income inequality, reflect difficulties governments face in putting into place effective national and international policy frameworks that are fit for purpose. The strengthening of government capacities in a context of an enabling multilateral framework, remains critical for the SDGs and leaving no one behind.

The push for science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda needs to acknowledge the limited scientific and statistical capacity in many developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs). International support mechanisms need to be strengthened to support scientific, innovation, R&D, and statistical capacity to enable home-grown policy solutions. While AI presents a number of risks for

developing countries, including risks of disruption of labour markets, we need to invest in reaping its potential benefits for public policy goals.

Building capacity for science- and evidence-based action is particularly important for achieving SDG 14 and ensuring the sustainability of life below water. Besides its critical role for global trade (e.g., shipping and ports) and a growing ocean economy (e.g., fisheries and tourism), the ocean provides livelihoods for hundreds of millions in coastal communities of mainly developing countries, and meets the nutritional needs of billions worldwide. The triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution), overfishing, harmful subsidies, regulatory gaps and underinvestment in SDG 14 threaten potential dividends to be gained from the ocean and from a sustainable ocean economy. Harnessing the vast potential of the world's ocean requires good global ocean governance and shared commitment to ocean sustainability, but also science- and evidence-based solutions and strategic action to ensure sustainable management, use and conservation, to the benefit of people, planet, and future prospects.

There are positive experiences of exploring country-led mission-driven country platform approaches, with effective collaboration between multilateral and regional organizations, including UN entities and international and regional financial organizations. A key element in the success of these initiatives has been strong government leadership at the highest levels, ensuring national ownership across sectors, areas of government and subnational regions.

Finally, the power of arts and culture in giving visibility to the SDGs and promoting action is too seldom emphasized. With the recognition of the importance of multistakeholder action to achieve the SDGs, there is a case for promoting visibility through art and making better use of the media, including social media, to disseminate evidence, showcase success stories, change unsustainable behaviors and encourage action.

**Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by the CDP to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

The CDP has addressed several of the commitments and underlying challenges reflected in the outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future. In recent work, the Committee highlights:

- Its inputs to the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) [elements paper](#), participation of CDP members in the Preparatory Committees, Development Dialogues, and the International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development (Action 4 of the Pact for the Future; point II/38/t of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration).
- Its work on [innovation ecosystems](#), which reflects the aim to promote an open, fair and inclusive environment for scientific and technological development and cooperation worldwide, as well as the aim to ensure that science, technology and innovation contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights by all (Actions 28 and 30 of the Pact for the Future; paragraph 38. (t) of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration).
- Its [continued work on LDCs](#) and its recent work on trade, reflect the objectives of Action 5 of the Pact for the Future. Additionally, the CDP's work on LDCs contributes to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, in line with chapter II of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration.

Over the course of 2025, the CDP will continue to work on development themes and multilateralism through the lens of an overarching framework of new contexts and pathways for development; and issues related

to the LDC category. The CDP will make recommendations for the Second World Summit for Social Development, with an emphasis on multidimensional poverty, domestic income inequalities and decent employment.