



United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

**Fifty-ninth session
(3–28 June 2019)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 18 April 2019 and its substantive session from 3 to 28 June 2019 at Headquarters. It held 23 formal meetings and numerous informal and “informal informal” consultations, as well as briefings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the fifty-ninth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for the year 2020;
 - (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) New Partnership for Africa’s Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 18 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat ([E/AC.51/2019/L.2](#)), submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), stating that there were no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit available for consideration at its fifty-ninth session.

Programme of work

4. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda ([E/AC.51/2019/1](#)) and the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation ([E/AC.51/2019/L.1](#)) listing the documents before the Committee.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 June, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the revised annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.51/2019/1/Rev.1) and the revised note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2019/L.1/Rev.1) listing the documents before the Committee.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its programme of work with the understanding that adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session to take into account the pace of discussions.
7. Following the 2nd meeting, informal briefings were given by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters; the Acting Chief, Business Partner Service, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on logistical matters; the Director, Inspection and Evaluation Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services, on evaluation issues; and the Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, on the proposed programme budget for 2020.

B. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting, on 18 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Vitaly Mackay (Belarus) as Vice-Chair and Jun Yamada (Japan) as Rapporteur for the fifty-ninth session.
9. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana) as Chair for the fifty-ninth session.
10. At the same meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Benjamin Sieberns (Germany) as Vice-Chair for the session.
11. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee were:

Chair:

Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana)

*Vice-Chairs:*¹

Vitaly Mackay (Belarus)

Benjamin Sieberns (Germany)

Rapporteur:

Jun Yamada (Japan)

C. Attendance

12. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

¹ In the absence of any nomination for the position of Vice-Chair from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the seat remained vacant at the fifty-ninth session of the Committee.

Angola	France
Argentina	Germany
Bangladesh	Haiti
Belarus	India
Botswana	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Brazil	Italy
Bulgaria	Japan
Burkina Faso	Pakistan
Cameroon	Paraguay
Chad	Portugal
Chile	Republic of Korea
China	Republic of Moldova
Cuba	Russian Federation
Egypt	Senegal
Eritrea	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Ethiopia	United States of America

13. The following States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Australia	Morocco
Jamaica	Switzerland
Liechtenstein	Syrian Arab Republic
Malta	European Union

14. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa; Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel; Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support; Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; Assistant-Secretary-General for Africa of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and of Peace Operations; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme; Assistant-Secretary-General, Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011; Assistant Secretary-

General for General Assembly and Conference Management; Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Internal Oversight Services; Assistant Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs; Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination, Executive Office of the Secretary-General; Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller; Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information and Technology Officer; Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Executive Director of the International Trade Centre; Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and Director of the Secretariat of CEB; and other senior officials of the Secretariat.

15. Relevant representatives discussed the following programmes and documents by videoconference: programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#)); programme 2, Political affairs ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)); programme 4, Peacekeeping operations ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 5\)](#)); programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 6\)](#)); programme 6, Legal affairs ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#) and [A/74/6 \(Sect. 8\)/Corr.1](#)); programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)); programme 10, Trade and development ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 12\)](#)) and programme 10, subprogramme 6, International Trade Centre ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#)); programme 11, Environment ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 14\)](#)); programme 12, Human settlements ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 15\)](#)); programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 16\)](#)); programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 18\)](#)); programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)); programme 17, Economic development in Europe ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)); programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)); programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 22\)](#)); programme 20, Human rights ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)); programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 25\)](#)); programme 22, Palestine refugees ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 26\)](#)); programme 25, Management and support services: Administration, Geneva ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#)); Administration, Vienna ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#)); and Administration, Nairobi ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 29G\)](#)); and programme 27, Jointly financed activities ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 31\)](#)), along with the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2018 ([E/2019/10](#)); the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme ([E/AC.51/2019/7](#) and [E/AC.51/2019/7/Corr.1](#)); the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs ([E/AC.51/2019/9](#)); and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([E/AC.51/2019/8](#)).

D. Documentation

16. The list of documents before the Committee at its fifty-ninth session is set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Proposed programme budget for the year 2020

17. In view of the differences among Member States on some aspects of part II, the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information for 2018 of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sects. 2–6, 8 and Corr.1, 9–22, 24–31 and 34)), the Committee recommended that the General Assembly review all of the programme plans (1–28) of the proposed programme budget for 2020 at its seventy-fourth session, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

18. At the 23rd meeting, on 28 June, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2019/L.4](#) and Add.1–41) and the draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session ([E/AC.51/2019/L.3](#)).

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session and decided that it would be updated in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session and by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

21. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of Chad, Botswana, Brazil, Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Senegal, the United States, France, Egypt, the Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Germany, China, Cameroon, the United Kingdom, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Italy, Portugal, Angola, Cuba and Japan. The Chair made concluding remarks.

Chapter II

Programme questions

A. Proposed programme budget for the year 2020

Plan outline (part I)

22. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 June 2019, the Committee considered the plan outline of the proposed programme budget for 2020 ([A/74/6 \(Plan outline\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

23. The Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination introduced the plan outline and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

24. Several delegations expressed appreciation and support for the presentation of the plan outline, which reflected the eight priorities previously approved by the General Assembly, as well as the reform agenda of the Secretary-General across the three pillars of development, management, and peace and security. It was emphasized that the plan outline and related programme plans were key strategic instructions that would lay the foundation for the work of the Organization.

25. A delegation said that the presentation of the long-term objectives of the Organization and the eight priorities was very clear and in line with what had previously been approved. Another delegation stressed that the principle for defining priorities must be that they were universal and approved by Member States, which unfortunately was not always the case because the plan outline contained references to approaches and concepts that had not been agreed upon by intergovernmental bodies. While acknowledging that the transformative agendas listed in the plan outline were not exhaustive, a delegation suggested that additional references to human rights programmes and agendas could have been included.

26. Clarification was sought regarding paragraph 43 of the plan outline in relation to the eight priorities of the Organization. In particular, the view was expressed that the introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General had been more explicit than the content of the plan outline, given that he had proposed maintaining the existing eight priorities, whereas it was stated in the plan outline that the General Assembly might wish to consider reaffirming or amending them. The view expressed was that, where there were differences between the plan outline and the introductory statement, the plan outline would prevail. A delegation suggested that the upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations not only be celebrated but also be used as an opportunity to focus on content and setting future priorities.

27. A number of delegations voiced strong support for the reform agenda and the three pillars and expressed the hope that the reforms would lead to a more effective and efficient implementation of mandates. Recognizing that the plan outline touched upon management reform and provided an overview of achievements, a delegation asked why the management and effective functioning of the Organization had not been included in the list of the priorities and whether effective management was perhaps reflected in each of the priorities.

28. A delegation asked why no reference had been made to the reform of the Security Council, emphasizing that, notwithstanding its full support for the reforms being undertaken by the Secretary-General, the plan outline pertained to the long-term objectives of the Organization, not those of the Secretary-General, and that a

clear mandate existed for reform of the Council, including in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular in paragraph 153 of General Assembly resolution 60/1, in which reform of the Council had been highlighted as an essential element of Member States' overall effort to reform the United Nations. A delegation suggested that it was precisely the reforms being undertaken by the Secretary-General across the three pillars that should be reflected in the plan outline.

29. Several delegations commented on the new format and presentation of the plan outline and recognized the significant work and effort that had gone into it, leading to an important change in the way of working. Some delegations expressed serious concern at the new format and presentation, noting that the General Assembly, in approving the transition to an annual budget period on a trial basis, had reaffirmed, in paragraph 13 of its resolution 72/266 A, that no changes to the budget methodology, established budgetary procedures and practices or the financial regulations could be implemented without prior review and approval by the Assembly in accordance with established budgetary procedures. It was also recalled that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 60 of its related report (A/72/7/Add.24), had indicated that it trusted that, in the context of the ongoing management reform, any further proposals to revise the format and information contained in the budget presentation, as required, would be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration. It was also recalled that the recommendation had been endorsed by the Assembly in the same resolution. In that regard, clarification was sought of the mandate through which the format had been changed. It was said that, should no such mandate exist, it would be necessary to return to the previous format. In that connection, a request was made for written information to be provided on the specific mandates that led to the changes.

30. A delegation noted the non-inclusion of information previously available to Member States, such as expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, outputs, information on the implementation of recommendations of oversight bodies and the list of mandates. It was stressed that such information was an important element of the results-based budgeting methodology, which had not been changed by the General Assembly. Concern was also expressed that highlighting only one result under each subprogramme did not provide comprehensive information on work being undertaken by each subprogramme.

31. A delegation expressed concern that important information had been removed from the plan outline and was being presented only in the supplementary information, a situation that would have a significant impact on the work of the Committee. For example, it was pointed out that deliverables were included in the supplementary information and were therefore no longer negotiated.

32. A delegation spoke of inconsistencies between highlighted results, with some appearing closer to objectives and others closer to deliverables, and emphasized the need for consistency between programmes and subprogrammes. The delegation also noted that the strategy had previously been presented under each subprogramme whereas, in the new presentation, it was included at the programme level.

33. Several delegations expressed support for the presentation of the logical framework in the new format and its increased focus on results. The view was expressed that the Committee was dealing with many "firsts", including the first annual budget and the first consideration of the new format, and it was suggested that the General Assembly would look to the Committee to see how those firsts had been reviewed and understood. The hope was expressed that, as the Committee considered each programme, it would be able to identify cross-cutting issues to provide guidance.

34. While welcoming the fact that a clear link had been made between the work of the Organization and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a delegation said

that the seemingly mandatory linking of subprogrammes to specific Sustainable Development Goals had resulted in some controversial associations, in particular in the case of linking 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) to peace and security. While acknowledging the general link between development and peace and security, the delegation stressed that the 2030 Agenda had involved a major effort, that many debates had been held on Goal 16 during negotiations and that the Goal had been crafted very deliberately to avoid specific terms, such as conflict, so as to ensure that the Goals were not about peace and security but were focused on themselves.

35. A delegation said that there were clear links between sustainable development and the maintenance of peace and security, notably that the two were complementary and could not be decoupled, given that peace and security was a prerequisite for development. It was stressed that there was an overall high-level link between peace and security and many of the Goals, including a very clear link between Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and geopolitical issues.

36. It was recalled that in the report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives ([A/74/67](#) and [A/74/67/Corr.1](#)), which had also been considered by the Committee on 3 June, it had been stated that, in terms of the use of evaluation in support of the Goals, about half of the sampled evaluation reports included an explicit reference to them, Goal 16 being the most cited, given that many entities contributed to peace, non-violence and justice, followed by Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all).

37. A delegation welcomed the new approach, indicating that it helped to reduce silos and improve collaboration within the Secretariat across pillars, and requested more and specific examples of how that had already been accomplished.

38. Several delegations stressed the need to adhere to intergovernmentally accepted terms and concepts. For example, it was stated that ensuring that no country or person was left behind, as stated in paragraph 6 of the plan outline, was not in accordance with the terminology agreed upon in the context of the 2030 Agenda, in which Member States had pledged that no one would be left behind. Similarly, it was pointed out that the mentions of climate change in paragraph 7 lacked a reference to common but differentiated responsibilities, a core element of the mandate. Furthermore, it was noted that in paragraph 10 a link had been made between population and migration, which were not associated in their underlying mandates. A delegation, noting that more emphasis was given to the promotion of justice in lieu of international law, said that the report ignored national platforms and that cooperation between the Organization and the International Criminal Court should be limited to the context of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court.

39. Clarification was sought regarding paragraph 40 on strengthening the United Nations procurement system. Noting that reference had been made to regulation 5.12 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the view was expressed that the resolution approving them should have been cited instead, because it was the resolution that provided the mandate, not the regulation. It was also pointed out that in many procurement resolutions the United Nations had been specifically encouraged to have more procurement from developing countries, a concept that was not reflected

in the plan outline. In that regard, the question was raised as to how the Secretariat identified and prioritized the elements that had been included in the plan outline.

40. Regarding budgetary matters contained in the plan outline, information was sought on what figures would be used to define the baseline and whether generally accepted methodologies were used. Clarification was also sought as to whether the presentation of an annual budget would solve the problem of recosting. A delegation said that budgetary matters fell within the remit of the Fifth Committee.

Programme 1

General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

41. At its 6th meeting, on 6 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

42. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management introduced the programme and, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

43. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in an effective and efficient manner, including the timely provision of quality documents so that Member States could carry out their work. The Department was commended for continuing to deliver on new mandates while resources declined steadily. It was stressed that the main priority of the programme remained unchanged, namely, the provision of high-quality conference services and documentation in the six official languages. Emphasis was also placed on the need to ensure the proper functioning of United Nations language services, and it was stressed that the quality of service should be maintained at both Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters and that any changes to the language services must receive the approval of the Assembly.

44. Several delegations stressed the importance of preserving, advancing and implementing multilingualism in the United Nations and emphasized the need for the timely provision of reports in the six official languages. Information was sought as to whether any joint approaches had been discussed in the context of the meetings of CEB to achieve multilingualism in the entire system. A delegation added that not only documents but also the website of the Organization should be available in the six official languages. It expressed interest in obtaining information on the number of webpage visits in each working language and welcomed the fact that users could now gain access to the Spanish version of the website. A delegation remarked that it supported the publication of documents in the six official languages, when necessary, and encouraged the Department to perform an analysis of the number of documents available in the languages to make sure that resources were not being directed towards services that were not needed.

45. A number of delegations welcomed the undertaking of outreach and the signing of memorandums of understanding with linguistic universities to prepare translation

personnel, as well as the continued practice of bringing temporary staff on board, including from other countries. A delegation questioned, however, whether the small number of memorandums of understanding signed to date really had improved conference services overall.

46. Several delegations welcomed the introduction of new technologies and innovative tools in conference-servicing, including making documents available electronically. However, a delegation cautioned that there needed to be a detailed analysis of the impact of new tools and that the aim should be to ensure the high quality rather than a large number of tools. Concern was raised over the multilingual dimension of documents available electronically, as well as the need for the Secretariat to verify the quality of those documents.

47. Information was sought as to whether any surveys had been conducted to assess the effectiveness of the new tools, such as the e-deleGATE portal, and whether briefings and training had been made available to Member States. It was also noted that qualitative elements of such tools were as important as quantitative elements. A delegation expressed its concern that e-deleGATE seemingly allowed only a limited number of connections at a given time. The same delegation expressed its concern that documents on e-deleGATE were available in English only and sought information as to whether there was a large time lag between the issuance of documents in the various languages and their availability on e-deleGATE.

48. A delegation pointed out that the digital version of the *Journal of the United Nations* had been in existence for a while and enquired whether any assessment of that tool had been undertaken. Furthermore, a delegation expressed the view that it was sometimes difficult to find information in the digital *Journal*. The same delegation enquired whether there was a backup mechanism in place in the event of a technological failure and as to the reliability of the technologies being used.

49. Written information was requested on the percentage of translation work performed by external contractors that was at present subject to verification by the Secretariat and whether there was any intention to eliminate the inequality in the number of inspections at the different duty stations .

50. Regarding subprogramme 2, Planning and coordination of conference services, New York, notably the highlighted result in 2018, while the narrative on the one-stop-shop was deemed interesting, it was questioned whether it should be mentioned in a technical budget document. Another delegation commented that all information made available, including the reference to the one-stop-shop, was valuable and noted that such tools would improve the understanding of those delegates who might be participating for the first time.

51. Questions were raised on consistency across different subprogrammes and duty stations in the presentation of results. For example, in the “Result and evidence” part of the highlighted planned result for 2020 of subprogramme 2, New York, the one-stop-shop was indicated as being expected to contribute to the result, which was further enhancement of the user experience and greater predictability. By contrast, in the “Result and evidence” section of the highlighted planned result for 2020 of subprogramme 2, Nairobi, the planned result was presented as being an online platform for testing different event scenarios with an automated cost-estimating tool.

52. Regarding subprogramme 2, Vienna, under the highlighted planned result for 2020, a delegation indicated that it was looking forward to working with the Secretariat during the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020 in Vienna, and requested other Member States’ participation at the political as well as working levels.

53. Clarification was sought as to whether any guidelines and criteria existed for events to be held on United Nations premises and whether evaluations had been conducted on requests in instances where the criteria had not been met, and whether the Secretariat maintained a list of such instances to ensure that the same entity could not use the premises in the future.

54. Clarification was also sought as to the qualitative and quantitative contribution of Umoja to the work of the Department.

55. In the context of the new presentation, a delegation reiterated its position that the Secretariat must correct the format of the document and bring it in line with the provisions of resolution [72/266 A](#).

Programme 2

Political affairs

56. At its 6th meeting, on 6 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 2, Political affairs ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

57. The Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and a representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

58. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and for the important work carried out in the area of maintenance of international peace and security by the various entities under the programme.

59. A number of delegations expressed their support for the work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in particular in the areas of conflict prevention, electoral assistance and peacebuilding. Several delegations also expressed support for the reform of the peace and security pillar and welcomed the increased integration and improvement in the work of the Department, particularly in the area of conflict prevention, as reflected in the proposed programme plan. Recognizing that nationally owned solutions were imperative, a delegation expressed the view that national institutions played a critical role in the prevention of conflict, and while appreciation was expressed for the work of the Department in the preventive management of conflict, in particular through strategies to build the capacities of national institutions, it was also noted that there was room for further improvement in the long-term management of conflict and in sustaining peace.

60. Regarding paragraphs 3.5 to 3.7, under the heading "Recent developments", a delegation stated that, while the regional dimensions of conflicts were important and the inclusion of regional organizations was crucial to finding solutions to conflicts, it took note that the overall orientation of the programme did not include the domestic and international dimensions of conflict, which must be taken into account when looking for solutions.

61. Regarding the section entitled "Strategy and external factors for 2020", it was recalled that the core strategy of the Department was to support the pacific settlement of disputes, as noted in paragraph 3.10. A delegation suggested that the strategy be reworded as "to promote and support the pacific settlement of disputes". The same

delegation raised concern about the use of the term “new threats” in paragraph 3.11, and sought clarification as to whether the term had been approved by Member States and if its use implied a broadening of the mandate of the Department. The delegation was of the view that “regional strategies”, mentioned in the same paragraph, must take into account the priorities of the region and that strategies must be developed with the consent of Member States. With reference to paragraph 3.13, clarification was sought as to how the “whole of pillar” approach following the implementation of the peace and security reform had increased accountability of the Secretariat in implementing mandates.

62. While several delegations expressed support for the external factors listed in paragraph 3.14, one delegation sought clarification regarding how the Department determined entry points for United Nations engagement to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict, as reflected in paragraph 3.14 (b).

63. With respect to paragraph 3.20 and the self-evaluation planned by the Department in 2020, clarification was sought as to the scope and area of the self-evaluation and the time frame for their determination.

64. The view was expressed that the objectives of the subprogrammes did not in all cases reflect a clear connection to the work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. It was noted that there were inconsistencies in references to the Sustainable Development Goals. A delegation pointed out that, in paragraphs 3.22 to 3.24, which mentioned Sustainable Development Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 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) and Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), while there was an explanation of what progress towards those Goals would bring, it was not clear how the Goals were necessarily connected to the work of the Department and what was the added value to the narrative. The same delegation noted that, under the heading “Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals”, for example, although the narratives for the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator to the Middle East Peace Process and the United Nations Office to the African Union included references to women’s empowerment, there were no references to Goal 5. Clarification was sought as to whether the finding of an evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), which had noted that Goal 16 was one of the Sustainable Development Goals most referenced by United Nations entities, had reflected the recognition of the nexus between peace and security and sustainable development. In response to clarifications provided by the Under-Secretary-General, some delegations expressed the view that that nexus had indeed been acknowledged in resolutions. However, a delegation expressed the opinion that the priority of the Department, in particular the sustaining peace agenda, had not been captured in the alignment with the Goals and stressed instead that that agenda must be the priority of the alignment.

65. With regard to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, several delegations welcomed the reflection of improvements resulting from the peace and security reform, and a delegation expressed the view that the reform initiative would address a number of deficiencies previously identified. Efforts to identify quantifiable metrics, including positive feedback from Member States, were appreciated, although it was noted that there was room for further improvement. For example, it was noted that a greater number of meetings could not be considered as a result. The same delegation expressed support for efforts to improve the capacity and capability of Member States to prevent and resolve conflicts and recognized the use of good offices as a barometer of success. A delegation pointed out that, while there was mention of good offices under the deliverables for the period 2018–2020,

there was no reference to quantifiable results. The delegation further noted that, while data had been presented vis-à-vis the number of actual good offices efforts compared with the targeted number for the biennium 2018–2019, no such references had been provided for 2020. In that regard, the delegation expressed the opinion that the Committee was left in a position of not knowing whether that was the result of the change in format and wondered why the information had been omitted. Another delegation was of the view that the results and evidence provided under the highlighted planned result for 2020, such as “more comprehensive regional strategies”, was abstract, and further information was requested in the form of more concrete examples. A delegation noted the strategy for the Sahel as an example of the integrated approach, while emphasizing the need for closer cooperation with international financial institutions and the need to obtain the buy-in of regional actors. The importance of an integrated approach to the transition in Darfur was underlined. Another delegation sought clarification regarding the quantified deliverables reflected in table 3.1, in particular the planned quantities for 2019 and 2020 and the explanations for the related variance reflected in paragraphs 3.31 to 3.33, and sought clarification as to why table 3.1 did not contained quantified information for the future regarding the good offices substantive deliverable, despite the fact that such information was provided in paragraph 3.25, on the number of good offices efforts conducted in 2018.

66. As regards subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, a delegation recognized the importance of electoral assistance provided by the United Nations to countries in the conduct of free and fair elections. Expressing its support for the highlighted planned result for 2020, the delegation welcomed the improvement in performance on the timely deployment of assistance and encouraged the subprogramme to work closely with other United Nations entities in delivering support. A delegation commented that there were gaps in the subprogramme’s support to Member States in the post-election phase and suggested that the subprogramme develop further support mechanisms for post-election contexts. With reference to a planned result for 2018 mentioned in paragraph 3.37, clarification was sought regarding the criteria used to determine the provision of electoral assistance to Member States, as it was noted that not all Member States that requested assistance received it. Noting the increase in electoral missions and citing the statement in paragraph 3.37 that the planned result for 2018 of enhanced capacity of Member States requesting electoral assistance to strengthen their democratic processes and develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes had been achieved, another delegation requested specific examples of where that had been the case and enquired as to whether in the future the subprogramme could include in its results reports on countries that had been able to conduct elections without assistance following the provision of support by the subprogramme. Concerning the highlighted planned result for 2020, clarification was sought regarding the term “electoral crisis situations”, and questions were raised in connection with the performance measures, including on the overall percentage of requests for assistance that had been answered.

67. Regarding subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, some delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the subprogramme and welcomed the strengthened support provided to Council members, particularly new members. Questions were raised concerning the kind of technical support that would be most useful for members-elect and new members. A delegation welcomed recent efforts to increase the data collected, including data on gender, and the roll-out of the iSCAD+ database noted in the highlighted planned result for 2020 as a unified front-end portal accessible from mobile devices and integrated with the revamped Security Council website, which was aimed at enhancing information products to service the needs of the Council. The view was expressed that Council members should be consulted with regard to further improvements in services provided by the subprogramme to Council

members. Several delegations expressed concern that the performance measure reflected under the highlighted planned result for 2020, namely, engagement time on the Council website (as measured in minutes), was not necessarily the best indication of the planned result, which was improved understanding overall and greater awareness of the Council's procedures and work on the part of Member States. It was pointed out that time spent on a website could also be attributed to the fact that the website was not easy to navigate and therefore could not be considered an improvement.

68. With regard to subprogramme 4, Decolonization, some delegations expressed the view that the objective of the subprogramme, as reflected in paragraph 3.56, should also include reference to the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, which had been included in the objective of the subprogramme for the biennium 2018–2019 ([A/71/6/Rev.1](#)). Another delegation referred to problems with the format, which had also been encountered in other programme plans, where the transition from objective to results to deliverable was not clear. The delegation was of the view that the linkage between the objective of the subprogramme, namely, to advance the decolonization process to bring about the complete eradication of colonialism, and the planned result for 2020, namely, better-informed stakeholders and continued engagement between the Territories, administering Powers, Member States and the public, could have been clearer. A delegation pointed out that the performance measure of the current and expected number of users of the United Nations decolonization website was not necessarily an indication of progress towards the objective and could not be considered a deliverable. It was also noted that paragraph 3.59 should include a reference to "other relevant General Assembly resolutions", similar to that which was reflected in the above-mentioned biennial programme plan. With respect to the highlighted planned result for 2020, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of the subprogramme to enhance its website, including the availability of information in all official languages.

69. As regards subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office, some delegations welcomed the integration of the Peacebuilding Support Office in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of the Peacebuilding Support Office in delivering work on the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation also noted that the increase in recent years in contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund reflected the support of Member States to the work of the subprogramme, and emphasized that, in future reports, further information would be welcome on partnerships with the World Bank and the subprogramme's support in the area of women's empowerment, as well as a more detailed elaboration of the role of the subprogramme, not only within the Department, but also in a more holistic manner in the development structure. The same delegation stated that an increase in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission with United Nations system entities and international financial institutions would be encouraging. Concerning the highlighted result in 2018, appreciation was expressed for the subprogramme's innovative work in the Sahel, and the regional approach in the Sahel, which presented new challenges and opportunities, was emphasized as having contributed to the success of the subprogramme. Concerning the highlighted result for 2020, a delegation pointed out that the challenge and response were abstract and requested more concrete examples, in particular with regard to effective collaboration in the production of political analysis and support to the Peacebuilding Commission, and the translation of such political analysis and strategy into peacebuilding programming and collaboration with United Nations system development actors. The same delegation sought clarification as to what was meant by "enhance collaboration" and requested that the phrase be contextualized and elaborated with concrete examples. A further question was raised by the delegation with respect to the result and evidence, in particular information on whether measures other than greater

engagement of civil society could be used to measure evidence of the work of the Peacebuilding Support Office. Citing the difficulties encountered owing to the lack of paragraph numbers, a delegation referred to the first paragraph on page 33 of the English version of the programme, under the heading “Challenge and response”. It queried whether there was an intergovernmental understanding with respect to the reference to “complex settings” and commented that the performance measure was not easily measurable.

70. With regard to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator to the Middle East Peace Process, a delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of the Office, including its support for the Egyptian-led Palestinian unity efforts and facilitation of the functioning of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, and welcomed the continuing activities in 2020 and expansion of implementation of humanitarian work in Gaza.

71. Regarding the United Nations Office to the African Union, the sound cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union was welcomed, and it was noted that the joint declaration signed by the United Nations and the African Union in December 2018 reflected a clear commitment to the partnership. The view was expressed that that commitment would need to be translated into measurable results, in particular in such areas as conduct and discipline, human rights and a doctrine on peace support operations.

72. Concerning the Office of Counter-Terrorism, it was emphasized that the utilization of gap analysis by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate was important when prioritizing and coordinating capacity-building efforts and that it was important for the Office to partner with regional organizations in implementing its mandates. A delegation expressed the view that the establishment of the Special Projects and Innovation Division should not result in duplicative work in the Office of Counter-Terrorism. Clarification was sought regarding the work of the Office with regard to non-conventional forms of terrorism and the impact of the virtual world of the Internet on terrorism. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the transparent and inclusive work carried out by the Office and observed that it had achieved many aims in the short time since its establishment, such as the organization in New York of the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which had brought together more than 1,000 participants, as noted in paragraph 3.207. A delegation noted with concern that the number of regular budget-funded positions in the Office of Counter-Terrorism was far smaller than the number of extrabudgetary positions.

Programme 3 Disarmament

73. At its 9th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 3, Disarmament ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

74. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

75. Delegations expressed broad support for the work undertaken by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in supporting multilateral efforts aimed at achieving the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. A delegation advised that, just that morning, it had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, making it the 103rd State party to the Treaty.

76. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed the view that it contained useful information. A delegation was of the view that it could benefit from the inclusion of information on transparency, given that transparency vis-à-vis Member States was one of the main criteria guiding the work of the Office. Further to the matter of transparency, a delegation highlighted the role of the relevant mechanisms, including the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, in tracking and identifying accumulations of weapons in the interest of ensuring stability and international security.

77. A delegation welcomed the integration by the Office of a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results and sought further details on the specific linkages between disarmament and targets under the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5, as referred to in paragraph 4.8 of the report. Appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken by the Office in improving its ability to effectively fulfil the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council, as referred to in paragraph 4.6, and information was sought on the change management efforts undertaken and how they related to the broader United Nations reform agenda.

78. On subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation, a delegation welcomed the forward-thinking nature of the highlighted planned result for 2020, namely, progress in the discussions on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems. A delegation expressed the view that the language used in the challenge and response section was unbalanced, given that it did not cover all of the results of the report by the Geneva experts. The same delegation also objected to the statement that there was broad agreement on the need to improve a shared understanding on the various unique characteristics of lethal autonomous weapons systems, such as those related to self-learning and self-evolution, human-machine interaction and human control, given that that implied condoning their use. Rather, there ought to be a treaty that prohibited those weapons. In response, another delegation emphasized that it did not believe that there was a need for such a treaty and that the existing humanitarian law was sufficient.

79. Under the same highlighted result, regarding the information that the subprogramme planned to scale up its activities to address needs by increasing its engagement with partners, a delegation sought clarification as to why no reference had been made to General Assembly resolution [73/32](#) on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. Furthermore, the delegation queried why the Office had intended to scale up its activities when in resolution [73/32](#), the Assembly had merely requested an updated report on recent developments in that area. The same delegation, referring to the first paragraph under the heading “Result and evidence”, in which it was stated that the planned deliverables were expected to contribute to greater convergence on how to ensure that human control was maintained in the various phases of a weapon system’s life cycle, pointed out that negotiations were still ongoing under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Echoing the ongoing work undertaken with regard to the Convention, another delegation enquired whether the Office had any plans to support the process, including by increasing its staff in Geneva.

80. Information was sought with regard to the deliverables of subprogramme 1 for the period 2018–2020, in particular documentation services for meetings. Noting the planned output for 2018 of 160,000 words and the actual output of 3,495,000 words, clarification was sought as to the cause of the significant difference between planned and actual output. Clarification was also sought regarding the information provided in paragraph 4.23 that the variance in parliamentary documentation had been driven by expected additional documentation of the Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, given that the review would take place only in 2021, not 2020.

81. On subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, the view was expressed that, among the mandates set out in paragraph 4.29, the treaties establishing the nuclear-weapon-free zones ought to be included. That was echoed by another delegation, which expressed support for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world and emphasized that the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East remained a priority.

82. With regard to the explanations provided for the variances between the planned deliverables for 2020 and 2019 in paragraphs 4.31 and 4.35, in particular that the variance in substantive meetings and documentation was attributed to fewer meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, information was sought on why the Office was of the view that there would be fewer meetings, given that there was a clear mandate with regard to the number and frequency of meetings.

83. With respect to subprogramme 3, Conventional arms, in particular the highlighted result in 2018, a delegation expressed concern at a result highlighted under the heading “Result and evidence”, namely, consensus among Member States on small arms control efforts to draw synergies with other instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, noting that it was an erroneous and selective interpretation of the mandates. Regarding the highlighted planned result for 2020 and the related performance measure for 2020 on the recognition by States, regional organizations and civil society organizations that the database helped in monitoring the achievement of the goals of the instruments in question, a delegation expressed the view that the measure had lost the relationship to the main objective of the subprogramme.

84. On subprogramme 5, Regional disarmament, a delegation welcomed the attention paid by the Office to the situation in the Sahel region and encouraged further efforts in that regard. A delegation emphasized the importance of developing and improving the cooperation of the Office with regional and subregional mechanisms, on the basis of Chapter VIII of the Charter, including with organizations whose profile was steadily increasing, such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

85. A delegation expressed the view that the new format of the document created doubts and brought about inconsistencies. As an example, the delegation sought an explanation for the change in the objective of subprogramme 5 from “to enhance global disarmament and international peace and security through regional disarmament efforts and initiatives” under the previous format to “to advance regional disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts and initiatives”. The delegation also expressed the view that the document was inconsistent within itself, as evidenced by the inclusion of “a political environment supportive of disarmament efforts” under the planning assumptions in paragraph 4.7 (a), which was in contrast to information provided under the heading “Highlighted result in 2018” under subprogramme 2 that the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty had been “held in an environment of growing tensions between nuclear-armed States, deepening divisions among States

parties over how to achieve and maintain the Treaty's objectives and ongoing nuclear proliferation challenges". In response, a delegation expressed the view that the examples provided were not necessarily related to the format of the budget but rather to the content and that the revised format strongly helped in assessing of the work of the programme.

86. With regard to the alignment of the programme with the Charter, the Sustainable Development Goals and other transformative agendas, a delegation welcomed the alignment of the objectives of the subprogrammes with the women and peace and security agenda pursuant to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and the youth and peace and security agenda pursuant to Council resolution [2419 \(2018\)](#). However, other linkages were questioned, especially as they related to the selection of Sustainable Development Goals, and the view was expressed that the information provided was unbalanced. Questions were raised with regard to the alignment of subprogramme 1 with Goals 3 and 5 and of subprogramme 2 with Goal 5, as well as the overall dominance of Goal 16. A delegation recalled that those who had negotiated the Goals knew that there had always been an emphasis on their being a "whole" and indivisible, whereas in the budget document only a few had been picked, in particular Goal 16. Another delegation remarked that there indeed was a very clear link between the activities of the Office and Goal 16 and drew attention to the *UN Chronicle*, vol. LV, No. 2, 2018, in which the Under-Secretary-General had written an article on advancing disarmament within the 2030 Agenda.

87. Reference was made to paragraph 4.71, in which it was stated that, in 2020, the Office would continue to reduce its carbon footprint by significantly reducing its use of photocopy paper and the printing of documentation and by reducing travel and instead optimizing participation in meetings through videoconferencing. Delegations welcomed the efforts of the Office to integrate sustainability into its work, and information was sought on how replacing travel with videoconferencing would take shape in tangible form, including in the context of the full roll-out of Umoja Extension 2. While one delegation suggested that the Office adopt a paperless approach in the Conference on Disarmament, another delegation cautioned that the reduction of physical documents might have a negative impact, given that not everyone had access to the Internet, in particular in areas prone to conflict. In that context, the delegation suggested that the Office, for its outreach activities, consider the use of different media, including radio and television, to which many people could gain access, including those in Central Africa.

88. Reference was made to figure 4.II, which contains detailed estimated resource requirements in 2020 under the regular budget and extrabudgetary contributions. The view was expressed that the \$9.5 million allocated to finance 62 posts would result in staggering monthly salaries, and clarification was sought in that regard. In response, several delegations stressed that the discussion in the Committee for Programme and Coordination ought to focus on programmatic aspects and that questions related to resources should be left to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

Programme 4

Peacekeeping operations

89. At its 5th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 5\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

90. The Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Department of Peace Operations, introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

91. There was broad support for peacekeeping operations and for the work undertaken by the Department of Peace Operations as an important mechanism and a unique instrument facilitating United Nations efforts in maintaining peace and security. Appreciation was expressed to troop- and police-contributing countries for their sizeable contribution to United Nations peacekeeping and for the risks taken by uniformed men and women every day. It was highlighted that addressing the challenges faced by peacekeepers on the ground must remain a priority for the Organization.

92. Delegations expressed support for reform initiatives in the area of peacekeeping, including the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. In that regard, support was expressed for reforms that created a culture of performance and accountability in peacekeeping, enhanced the safety and security of peacekeepers, increased the operational effectiveness of missions, addressed underperformance, supported political solutions and met the needs of people on the ground. Regarding the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, the view was expressed that the Secretary-General should lead the overall coordination and delivery, moving the initiative from discussion to action, with priority being given to the implementation of the integrated performance policy framework and other measures set out in Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#), implementing the action plan to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers and achieving greater transparency in sharing the results of mission reviews and investigations into performance failures.

93. Regarding the development of the comprehensive performance assessment system to evaluate mission performance referenced in paragraph 5.9 (d), further information was requested on the methodology and criteria being developed. A delegation expressed the view that such a system needed a mandate approved by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the General Assembly. Another delegation expressed the view that, while recognizing its important role and the value of its recommendations, the Special Committee had no power to make binding decisions and that the work of the Secretariat could not be shaped by that Committee only. Furthermore, the delegation expressed the view that the Security Council had already provided the relevant mandate.

94. It was noted that the comprehensive performance assessment system was presently being rolled out on a trial basis in three missions, and the delegation looked forward to its expected introduction to all peacekeeping operations in 2020. In that regard, the delegation enquired as to how it would affect the future measurement of the performance of peacekeeping operations and, noting that Member States were likely to consider the question further in other intergovernmental forums, including the Fifth Committee, enquired how it would assist Member States in assessing the performance of peacekeeping operations. Information was also sought regarding how the roll-out was being undertaken in close cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries .

95. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the information presented in the programme, including on the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. A delegation expressed the view that in the context of the discussion on recent developments in the programme, it could have benefited from the inclusion of information on the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The delegation also suggested that the illicit exploitation

of natural resources be included under the heading “Strategy and external factors for 2020”, given its significant impact, especially in Central Africa.

96. Concern was expressed regarding inconsistencies between different results, as evidenced by a comparison of the highlighted planned result for 2020 under subprogrammes 1 and 2. While that of subprogramme 1 related to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and was therefore targeted and mission-specific, that of subprogramme 2, namely, “Improved safety and security of peacekeepers through better training and equipping”, was very broad.

97. Concern was expressed about the linking of sustainable development with peace and security, and it was emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals related to social and economic development, which was a self-reliant area. Emphasis was placed on the three pillars of the Organization and the principle that all three pillars must be treated equally and not be undermined. With regard to paragraph 5.2, namely that in the context of the 2030 Agenda, the purposes stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter were embodied by the Sustainable Development Goals, the view was expressed that that involved a value judgment, which could lead to a dangerous and lengthy process of discussing and interpreting the Charter. Another delegation emphasized that a link had existed since the 1970s and had been recognized in multiple resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 70/1, and that a theological discussion on those issues should be avoided.

98. A delegation was of the view that most references had been made to 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) and that, while the programme referred to the women and peace and security agenda, no linkage had been made to Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

99. With regard to subprogramme 1, Operations, appreciation was expressed for the deliverables related to workshops on regional and subregional political strategies. Information was sought on the performance measures used under that subprogramme, and the importance of specific values, such as “57 commanders of armed groups captured”, was questioned, given that the information did not directly reflect on the achievements of the subprogramme.

100. With regard to subprogramme 2, Military, in particular the highlighted planned result for 2020 of “improved safety and security of peacekeepers through better training and equipping”, the view was expressed that while the training of military personnel had been stressed, one element that also needed to be addressed was the lack of appropriate resources. For example, there had been cases of casualties owing to a lack of proper medical facilities. In that regard, information was sought on the specific measures that had been taken by the Secretary-General to ensure the safety and security of troops. The view was expressed that the number of casualties and fatalities might be a better measurement of the performance of the subprogramme. Another delegation expressed the view that it was important to clarify to what extent the measurement would be a deliverable or a result and stressed that the terminology must be clarified.

101. Under the same subprogramme, a delegation stressed that exact terminology must be used, for instance “Peacekeeping intelligence/information-gathering and analysis”, which must be conducted in line with parameters defined by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Also under subprogramme 2, a delegation noted a sixfold increase in planned training events on military gender issues for peacekeeping operations in 2019 compared with 2020 and enquired about the

appropriateness of spending resources in that way and about the expected impact of the training.

102. On subprogramme 4, Policy, evaluation and training, information was sought as to why workshops on the rotational system in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations would be provided only for the European Union and its member States.

103. Several delegations expressed their support for the new format of the proposed programme plan and performance information. Several other delegations expressed concern regarding the alignment of objectives with specific Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme 5

Peaceful uses of outer space

104. At its 16th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 6\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

105. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

106. Delegations expressed broad support for the programme as an important mechanism to strengthen international cooperation in space and the use of space science and technology. In that regard, a delegation emphasized the need to strengthen North-South and South-South cooperation in exchanging skills and knowledge in the area of space science and technology. The work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in support of the international framework that governs space activities and in bringing space technology to countries around the world was also highlighted.

107. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Office in respect of leaving no one behind. In that regard, the successful launch by Kenya of its first satellite, deployed from the Japanese module on the International Space Station in 2018, and the focus of the programme on developing countries that might wish to launch their first satellite into outer space were noted. A delegation noted that the performance measure for the programme was the number of countries to have launched their first satellites into space in 2018 (one country), 2019 (two countries) and 2020 (three countries) and queried the identity of those countries.

108. A delegation sought clarification of the proposed objective and asked whether any change had been made with respect to the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2018–2019 and the reasons for any such change. A concern was expressed by a delegation with respect to the alignment of the objective of the programme with all of the Sustainable Development Goals instead of a more specific alignment with fewer Goals, for example, 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). The delegation further enquired as to whether there were gender, hunger or poverty issues related to the peaceful use of outer space.

109. A delegation noted the highlighted result in 2018 on space solutions to support disaster risk reduction: the case of the Dominican Republic, and sought clarification as to the Office's initiatives in assisting countries to use satellites for early warning

for drought and other agricultural assistance. Clarification was also sought regarding the planned result for 2018 set out in paragraph 6.20 on the means of implementation of capacity-building and training activities in space science and technology and related applications and on the countries involved.

110. On the highlighted planned results for 2020, in connection with the implementation of the new initiative on access to space for all, a delegation noted that a new initiative on access to space for all was being implemented and requested information on key elements of the new initiative and how it compared to previous initiatives. The delegation further noted that workshops and training courses were the main activities in that regard and sought further clarification as to whether there were other activities envisaged to implement the initiative. A delegation also requested information and examples on the engagement of the Office with the private space sector as part of the new initiative.

Programme 6

Legal affairs

111. At its 11th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 6, Legal affairs ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#) and [A/74/6 \(Sect. 8\)/Corr.1](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

112. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel and the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

113. Delegations expressed appreciation for the essential and valuable work performed by the Office of Legal Affairs and general support for the proposed programme plan for 2020. Particular appreciation was expressed for the activities conducted under the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, namely, training programmes in international law, publications in international law and the operation of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, as well as the ongoing work with regard to legal assistance provided to the new resident coordinator system. Regarding the Programme of Assistance, a question was raised about the delivery of training programmes on international law and the plan of the Office to offer them in Eastern Europe.

114. Attention was drawn to the information under the heading “Recent developments” indicating that the Office had been at the forefront of the call by the Secretary-General for system-wide action to strengthen the Organization’s efforts to prevent and respond to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. The question was asked whether those activities ought not to be carried out under programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to avoid duplication.

115. A delegation asked why the programme did not reference the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and the role of the Legal Counsel in upholding the

legal interests of the Organization and its Member States in their relations with the host country.

116. Regarding subprogramme 1, Provision of legal services to the United Nations system as a whole, a delegation indicated its surprise at the inclusion of a reference to the “development of international justice and accountability” in the objective and sought information on the legal basis of that concept and the method by which the Office intended to promote it. Questions were raised as to the relevant mandates of the Office to develop international justice and accountability (para. 8.32) and to conduct seminars on international criminal justice (para. 8.39).

117. The consultation with resident coordinators and the signing of associated host country agreements were welcomed as important steps towards formalizing the new role of resident coordinators, and information was sought on the number of agreements signed to date. It was stated that it would be important to hold the resident coordinators accountable for delivering results, which included performing the critical tasks of, for example, upholding and promoting United Nations values, such as human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as leading and coordinating country teams. It was also stated that the new resident coordinator system must be independent and that there must be no intervention from the Secretariat except in the form of legal guidance provided by the Office. Referring to the performance measures for 2020 for the subprogramme, namely, the signing of 149 host country agreements, which provided the legal framework necessary for the resident coordinators and their offices to perform their functions and ensure their privileges and immunities, a delegation asked whether preparing a framework agreement for the perusal of all host countries might be more valuable than counting individual agreements. Clarification was also sought as to the type of work performed by the Office with regard to the privileges and immunities.

118. Regarding subprogramme 2, General legal services provided to United Nations organs and programmes, delegations welcomed the efforts to simplify contracting documents in order to facilitate contracting with vendors while protecting the legal interests of the Organization, thereby supporting the shift to a decentralized management paradigm. A question was raised regarding the objective of the subprogramme, that of maximizing the protection of the Organization’s legal interests, and the alignment of the objective with all of the Sustainable Development Goals. More information was sought regarding the references to litigation in the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal in the context of the highlighted result of the subprogramme in 2018.

119. Regarding subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Office to the International Law Commission and for the creation of online resources to disseminate legal publications, documents and information on international law.

120. A delegation highlighted the importance of subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, and recalled that the meeting of States parties convened in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea would be held at Headquarters the following week.

121. Regarding subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade, delegations expressed support for its work in promoting the participation of developing countries in the law-making activities of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. Support was also expressed for the efforts to promote the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.

122. Appreciation was conveyed for activities undertaken under subprogramme 6, Custody, registration and publication of treaties, in particular as they related to the registration of treaties. Appreciation was also expressed for the transparency brought about by the subprogramme through the “improved, more efficient and timely registration and publication process and broad accessibility of treaties and treaty actions”.

123. Regarding the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, some delegations expressed their trust in the work of the Mechanism. Deeply concerned about the violation of human rights and abuses against the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar, those delegations also stated that the accountability mechanisms of the Government had proved insufficient. A delegation emphasized that the collection of evidence was crucial and time-sensitive and recommended the inclusion of a clause specifying that references to the collection and storage of evidence encompassed also digital evidence. Another delegation expressed disappointment at the inclusion of the section on the Mechanism, suggesting that the Third Committee’s practice of adopting politicized country-specific resolutions did not help to solve problems in the field of human rights and undermined both the United Nations system and the system of international law. Several delegations expressed strong opposition to the country-specific resolutions and disagreement with the inclusion of section II, entitled “Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar”, in the proposed programme budget.

124. A question was raised regarding planning assumptions and the status of “entry points for engagement with other Member States where relevant victims, witnesses and evidence may be found”. The crucial importance of entry points in the gathering of evidence was highlighted, and information was sought as to whether sufficient entry points were available and, if not, what legal redress existed and what impact that would have on the workplan for 2020.

125. Many comments were made on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, with some delegations conveying their support for the Mechanism and others denying its legitimacy.

126. Some delegations commended the Mechanism on the progress made since its establishment in implementing its mandate to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses. Welcoming the Mechanism’s commitment to include women, civil society and multilateral mechanisms, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, the same delegations also noted that securing independence and impartiality would require the Mechanism to collect evidence from a wide range of sources, including non-governmental sources, and emphasized the need for the cooperation of all countries. In response to a statement by one delegation that evidence currently being collected consisted of unverified information from biased non-governmental organizations unfamiliar with the situation on the ground, other delegations stressed that the impartiality of evidence could be guaranteed only if that evidence stemmed from the widest possible range of sources. Furthermore, a delegation recalled the legal principle that the judge was the arbiter of witness credibility and stated that the Mechanism was neutral since its role was restricted to gathering evidence.

127. Several other delegations emphasized that the General Assembly, in its resolution [71/248](#), had established the Mechanism without the consent of the Syrian Arab Republic and that, in the absence of such consent or a Security Council resolution adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, the creation of the Mechanism

constituted a violation of the principles of the sovereign equality of all Members of the Organization and non-interference in their internal affairs, as enshrined in Article 2 of the Charter. Consequently, the Mechanism could not be considered a subsidiary body established by the Assembly, had no legal personality, could not enjoy the privileges and immunities guaranteed under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and had no legal capacity to enter into agreements with States and other entities, including international organizations. While some delegations reiterated their long-standing position of not supporting country-specific resolutions, the view was also expressed that it was an established practice of the Assembly to take action on such resolutions.

128. Several delegations emphasized that the Mechanism had been established in full compliance with the Charter, that its establishment fell under the authority of the General Assembly and that any statements to the contrary were unpersuasive and had been rejected at the time of the adoption of resolution [71/248](#). It was also asserted that the argument that the Mechanism interfered in the national sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic was not valid, as the Mechanism had no mandate to indict, issue warrants or try any individual. Rather, its mandate was to gather, preserve and analyse evidence so as to be able to present it to a jurisdiction with the necessary mandate.

129. Information was sought as to the existence of cooperation agreements in the form of legal instruments, such as memorandums of understanding. In that connection, it was stressed that some States could not cooperate with an entity such as the Mechanism without a legal instrument and that it would therefore be appropriate to include the implementation of such agreements as a deliverable of the Mechanism. It was suggested that the number of legal agreements signed with States or non-State entities could be a useful measure of the progress of the Mechanism. A delegation referred to the highlighted planned result for the Mechanism in 2020 and, recognizing that many activities were not yet quantifiable, asked whether the unquantified deliverables might be rendered quantifiable in the future.

130. Several delegations expressed their strong support for the idea of funding the Mechanism through the regular budget of the Organization, which would allow the Mechanism to implement its mandate and work on a firm financial footing. A delegation further stressed that funding the Mechanism through extrabudgetary contributions was not sustainable and that the General Assembly had therefore asked the Secretary-General to present a funding mechanism. Several other delegations expressed their disagreement with the inclusion of section III of programme 6, entitled “International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011”, in the proposed programme budget. Those delegations emphasized that resolution [71/248](#) had been adopted without a statement of programme budget implications and that the Mechanism had no legitimacy. A delegation suggested that the Committee not discuss questions on the funding of the Mechanism and that it focus instead on whether the matters before it accurately reflected the Assembly’s mandate.

131. Referring to resolution [72/266 A](#), in which the General Assembly had reiterated that the Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates while preserving the sequential nature of the review processes, a delegation pointed out that the Advisory Committee was currently reviewing the same documents as the Committee and asked for confirmation that the Advisory Committee would examine the question of resources after the Committee had examined the programme plans.

132. Views were expressed regarding the perceived inconsistent approach to the alignment of the work of the Office with the Sustainable Development Goals, and clarification was sought in relation to the presentation of deliverables.

Programme 7

Economic and social affairs

133. At its 13th meeting, on 11 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 7, Economic and social affairs ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 9\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

134. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

135. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and for the work carried out by the Department. Delegations voiced their appreciation for the efforts of the Department in supporting the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recognized its central role in providing secretariat support for the review. Furthermore, a delegation emphasized the central role of the Department in supporting the high-level political forum on sustainable development and commended it on its efforts in that regard.

136. A comment was made that the programme made only brief reference to critical General Assembly resolutions on development reform, such as resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and resolution [72/279](#) on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. A delegation encouraged the Department to articulate more clearly where it should focus its energy, adding that it should ensure that its contribution to the regional architecture used to carry out the functions required under the 2030 Agenda not duplicate efforts but instead work and be aligned with the efforts of regional commissions and country teams.

137. A delegation emphasized the critical importance of closely assessing how the work of the programme aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement.

138. In the context of the reform of the United Nations development system, clarification was sought as to how the Department would collaborate with the resident coordinators in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the new system and to better support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

139. Regarding the overall orientation, several delegations expressed concern about the alignment of the objectives of the subprogrammes with the Goals, with one noting inconsistencies in the approach and seeking clarification of the criteria used for the alignment.

140. Concerning subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development, a delegation expressed appreciation for the Department's focus on the voluntary national review process.

141. Regarding subprogramme 3, Sustainable development, the comment was made that some countries were falling behind in the area of sustainable development. Furthermore, a road map for implementing the Goals was recalled, and it was noted that gaps remained, despite the support provided by the United Nations.

142. With regard to subprogramme 4, Statistics, a delegation welcomed the support provided to Member States by the subprogramme, while another questioned the status of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which had expressed its intention to act as a think tank in support of the implementation of the Goals. Furthermore, clarification was sought regarding the status of the development of statistical instruments to track progress towards the achievement of the Goals.

143. Concerning subprogramme 5, Population, a delegation welcomed the achievements of the programme in the area of population and development. In addition, clarification was sought as to the title of the highlighted result in 2018, "Focus on data and evidence on international migration as a guide to policymaking", particularly with regard to the relationship between the concept of international migration and population. A question was posed in relation to the highlighted planned result for 2020, namely improved accessibility of data and analysis relevant to policymaking through streamlined reports and multimodal dissemination. In that connection, clarification was sought regarding the actions taken to ensure that the audience for the longer reports would continue to be satisfied, and the question of whether satisfaction was determined by an evaluation or a survey was raised.

144. Regarding subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government, a delegation noted the importance of the work of the Department in that area, particularly in support of the implementation of Goal 16. A delegation noted that the subprogramme was aligned with Goal 16, yet paragraph 9.85 on a planned result for 2018 referred to a focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women in public policy. The delegation therefore sought clarification as to the criteria used in setting the alignment.

145. As regards subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management, specifically the highlighted result in 2018, a delegation noted that in 2018 nine countries had submitted to the United Nations Forum on Forests voluntary national reviews of their efforts to achieve the six global forest goals and associated targets. In that regard, clarification was sought as to why the results and evidence were focused only on Ghana. Furthermore, additional information was sought on the impact and result of the submissions of all nine of those countries as opposed to a single country and on the reasons why so much focus was on project implementation and the activities of the Forum, which was not an implementing agency.

146. In connection with the work of the Forum, a delegation drew attention to resolution [2015/33](#) of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, adopted in 2017, reaffirming the role of the Forum as the central and universal platform from which to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. Furthermore, it added that the global objectives on forests enshrined in the strategic plan reflected the collective ambitious intentions of member countries to improve the situation in the forestry sector, while at the same time contributing to eradicating poverty, combating climate change and maintaining biological diversity. The delegation also said that the effective implementation of the mandate must be ensured for the secretariat of the Forum to be able to function properly. It added that in its resolution 13/1, the Forum

had further emphasized the importance of maintaining the capacity of the subprogramme and the Forum itself to enable the Forum to fulfil its role in accordance with intergovernmental agreements, which required the secretariat of the Forum to focus on substantive work on implementing the decisions taken by member countries in the forestry sector.

147. In addition, the delegation sought clarification as to whether the secretariat of the Forum remained solely responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 8, what the secretariat's integration into the Division for Sustainable Development Goals would entail, how that integration would affect the reporting line of the Director of the secretariat, how the downward reclassification of the post of Director from the D-2 to the D-1 level would allow the Director to continue to fulfil the role of representation in meetings with senior officials and how the subprogramme would increase the effectiveness of the work carried out on forestry issues, taking into account existing mandates.

148. Furthermore, concerning the establishment of a United Nations office for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in China pursuant to resolution 13/1, reflected in paragraph 9.144, a delegation said that no request had been made in the resolution for the office to be located in China and requested clarification in relation to the operational benefits and the set-up costs. Another delegation was of the view that the Committee was the appropriate forum in which to discuss the implementation of a mandate, but not the resources. A delegation said that, while some members had reiterated the scope of the Committee's operations, it had also commented on a budgetary matter and sought clarification in that regard.

149. =The importance of the work under subprogramme 9, Financing for sustainable development, was noted.

Programme 8

Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

150. At its 5th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 10\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

151. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

152. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in implementing its programme, working towards eradicating poverty and bringing about structural change and market integration, with one noting that the Office did so with fairly moderate resources. It was underscored that the three categories of countries covered by the Office – least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States – needed the support of the international community as they continued to face serious challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda and tackling climate change.

153. The view was expressed that, in recent years, unilateral restrictive trade measures had caused a drop in business activity and negatively affected supply chains.

Similarly, one delegation said that unilateral coercive measures applied against some countries, for example the economic blockade facing that delegation, were the main obstacle to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Another delegation emphasized that relations between individual States members of the Committee were not within the ambit of the Office.

154. Appreciation was expressed with regard to subprogramme 1, Least developed countries. A delegation said that it was encouraging to see that more least developed countries were prepared to graduate from that status and welcomed the role of the Office in helping to sustain a smooth transition. At the same time, it was noted that some countries requested an extension of the preparatory period before effective graduation, given that more time to prepare for graduation was deemed necessary, and clarification was sought as to what specific activities the Office would carry out in relation to such deferrals.

155. A delegation suggested that, in some countries, the meetings and activities of the Office had somewhat “flown under the radar” and called upon the Office to increase the visibility of its activities, including by holding meetings in the actual countries under its mandate.

156. Appreciation was expressed for the highlighted result of the subprogramme in 2018, related to the full operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and a science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries. A delegation welcomed the fact that the Bank had begun to implement its work programme and that initial studies had already been launched. The delegation emphasized the importance of market access and specific support provided in that regard, but stressed that it was equally important to be able to produce goods and services in the first place and sought information on what other mechanisms the Office intended to establish in support of least developed countries. Concern was expressed that the creation of the Bank could contribute to widening the digital divide between least developed countries.

157. Regarding subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, clarification was sought regarding paragraph 10.8 (a), in particular the mandate for the project on strengthening the capacity of landlocked developing countries under the Belt and Road Initiative to design and implement policies that promoted transport connectivity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Information was also sought on what activities would be undertaken in support of the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action.

158. A delegation representing a landlocked country indicated that it considered itself to be “land-linked” rather than “landlocked”, given its strong connectedness in the region, the facilitation of trade through the Southern African Development Community, the Southern African Customs Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area and the development of infrastructure, including a dry port and a railway to gain access to the Indian Ocean. The delegation highlighted the importance of regional integration in fostering connectedness and minimizing the negative implications of being landlocked, saying that that aspect had not been covered sufficiently in the programme. Similarly, a delegation stressed that, while development began with a national vision and engagement, it was essential to strengthen global partnerships. In that regard, information was sought on whether the Office was partnering in projects, whether already under implementation or yet to be launched, with actors such as the World Bank or the World Trade Organization.

159. As regards the highlighted planned result for 2020, under subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, information was sought on the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, in particular its mandate and whether it was a voluntary effort of the Office. Information was also sought on the next steps

planned by the subprogramme and how the programme would support the delivery of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

160. With regard to the format of the report, regret was expressed that not all paragraphs were numbered, making it difficult to provide references for discussion.

Programme 9

United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

161. At its 20th meeting, on 17 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

162. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

163. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme and for the important work that the programme carried out for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Delegations commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Global Communications for their joint work in assisting the African Union, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and welcomed the strengthening of the regulatory framework for cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, including the signing in January 2018 of a joint framework programme for the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda.

164. Regarding the strategy and external factors for 2020, referenced in paragraph 11.5, on African priorities and perspectives, a delegation observed that although there were commonalities, not all African countries shared the same perspective on peace, security and development. In that regard, it stressed that emphasis should be placed on African States and not just Africa .

165. A delegation emphasized the importance of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Referring to the situation in 1998 and the evolution of peace and security and development challenges in Africa, the delegation noted that much remained to be done, despite several attempts to reorient and restructure the report. Noting that the report was a significant aspect of the agenda of the African Union on peace and security, particularly Agenda 2063, the delegation observed that the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations could have been articulated more clearly in the report. In that regard, the delegation suggested that the focus and orientation of the report be reconsidered in order to respond better to the evolving challenges in Africa, as well as to the changing nature and scope of the partnership between the two organizations. The delegation expressed its desire to work with the programme in the areas of conflict, peace and security and sustainable development.

166. It was observed that there was a strong focus on issues related to women and gender, reflecting the programme's emphasis on incorporating the reform initiative of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the operational

activities, deliverables and results of the programme. However, a delegation suggested that the programme needed a greater focus on young people, as 60 per cent of the population of Africa was under 25 years of age, and it was recalled that, in a previous discussion on programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, there had been calls for a greater focus on youth programmes, which the delegation considered to be a more sustainable path to development on the continent. Another emphasized the need to develop a programme within Africa of greater relevance to young people, and expressed support for the continued reflection of that development initiative in each of the subprogrammes.

167. A delegation commented that there was no reference in the programme to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) or the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which undertook work with aspects of primary importance to development in Africa. Another delegation asked why there had been a reduced level of cooperation between UNIDO, UN-Habitat and the Office of the Special Adviser.

168. In emphasizing the relevance of programme 9, a delegation expressed concern that there were insufficient resources for the implementation of the programme's activities and emphasized that the Secretary-General, in the context of his reform initiative, should give greater priority to the programme in order for the work of United Nations entities in the area of peace, security and development in Africa to be coordinated, integrated and harmonized. The delegation asked why there was an absence of aspects of evaluation, particularly in terms of the self-evaluation and external evaluation that had appeared in the majority of programmes that had previously been considered.

169. In the highlighted result in 2018 under subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, a delegation sought clarification regarding the metrics used to derive the results and outcomes of the assessment undertaken to assess the needs of the regional economic communities and their institutional capacity for conflict prevention, which had led to the conclusion that there was a lack of gender integration in the peacemaking process. The same delegation commented that in the highlighted planned result for 2020, the designation "Sahelian Member States" was not recognized as an official designation of any geographical area.

170. A delegation observed that, in comparing the programme narratives of the proposed programme budget for the period 2018–2019 and the proposed programme budget for 2020, there were significant changes in the objectives, particularly with regard to subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, both of which had previously dealt with support and coordination for NEPAD. Delegations observed that, in its highlighted result in 2018 and the highlighted planned result for 2020, the focus of subprogramme 1 was largely on conflict prevention, for which the Office of the Special Adviser had received no instructions from Member States. It was further observed that less attention had been paid to coordination and advocacy in support of NEPAD. A delegation said that the perception of the narrative of subprogramme 1 was that the Office had deviated fundamentally from its basic programmatic functions in relation to cooperation on NEPAD, further reinforcing the impression that there was a lack of coordination. In that regard, a delegation asked whether there had been a change in the mandate of the subprogramme. Another noted that subprogramme 1 accounted for more than 70 per cent of the resource and personnel requirements of the entire programme and, in that context, sought clarification of the rationale behind the proposed thematic focus of that subprogramme for 2020.

171. Several delegations expressed concern that the narrative of programme 9 was shifting from the core mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser. One also stressed that the phrase “peace, security and development nexus”, as used in the documents, had not been properly agreed upon in an intergovernmental format in the United Nations. Regarding the focus on that nexus, clarification was sought as to why the decision had been taken to focus on conflict prevention. A delegation observed that seeking to solve all of the problems of peace and security in Africa through that nexus alone was not justifiable. For example, foreign intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States was mentioned as a possible factor in conflict. The delegation requested that the term “peace, security and development nexus” be deleted from the narrative of the programme and from the annex, which would bring the text into line with wording that had been adopted in intergovernmental forums. Conversely, a delegation observed that Africa was the continent where peace and security were linked to development; it considered that link to be justified, as famines struck only those countries where there was conflict, which usually led to serious humanitarian situations. The delegation reiterated that there could be no development without peace and stability. Another, concurring with that view, asked why there was an attempt to separate aspects that could not be separated.

172. Given the focus on the nexus between peace, security and development in Africa, a delegation asked why, in paragraph 11.3, under the section entitled “Alignment with the Charter of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals and other transformative agendas”, there was no mention of an alignment with international peace and security.

173. Another delegation observed that it was not within the Committee’s mandate to engage in a philosophical discussion on the nexus between peace and security and development; rather, it was for the Committee to discuss how the Secretariat was translating specific mandates into programmatic activities, to point out where changes had been observed and to seek explanations for such changes.

174. Responding to the question by a delegation on the nexus, another delegation cited the example of Libya, which, before 2011, had been described as one of the most developed countries on the continent, providing extensive social welfare to its citizens. The delegation further explained that, in 2011, the actions of some countries, in violation of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), had resulted in a regime change that had had domestic and regional consequences. In that regard, the delegation said that the issue of the nexus was not a constant and that there was no agreed-upon definition for the use of that term. In response, a delegation commented that the above-mentioned observations were inaccurate, as his country had not violated the resolution. Delegations expressed regret that an issue that fell outside of the remit of the Committee had been raised.

175. A delegation further observed that there was another office under programme 2, Political affairs, that dealt with the peace and security dimension, as well as under programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, and, in that regard, it emphasized the importance of coordination to ensure that there was no overlap. With the focus on conflict prevention, a delegation noted that the plans of the Secretary-General included a more proactive approach to addressing the causes of conflict, as well as in the response of regional entities in strengthening their institutional capacity in areas of conflict prevention. It asked whether those initiatives had led to a reduced number of conflicts in Africa.

176. Another delegation expressed concern that there was no reference in the objective of subprogramme 1 to South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and international cooperation in support of NEPAD and the 2030 Agenda.

177. Regarding subprogramme 2, the same delegation wished to know why, given that the objective of subprogramme 2 was to advance the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda within the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, NEPAD, which was a main partner in carrying out sustainable development efforts in Africa, had been notably absent at an important coordination event in May 2019 organized by the Office of the Special Adviser.

178. A question was raised regarding the changes in the subprogrammes and in the structure of the Office of the Special Adviser, and clarification was sought as to the kind of coordination provided by subprogramme 1, which focused on advocacy for NEPAD. A delegation enquired about the level of implementation of the objectives of the Office since April 2018 in relation to cooperation for NEPAD. Noting that there were two posts at the D-2 level focusing on coordination and advocacy, further clarification was sought as to how changes in the structure would affect the activities carried out under the subprogrammes.

179. Regarding subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, under the heading "Challenge and response" in the highlighted planned result for 2020, a delegation noted that the challenge mentioned was to reach a younger audience and that it was thought that mobile phones would affect the use of printed publications. The delegation stated that the increased use of mobile devices did not in fact present a challenge, but rather should facilitate the dissemination of information.

180. As regards the *Africa Renewal* magazine, some delegations expressed interest in having the publication translated into Portuguese and Spanish, as it had already been translated into Kiswahili and Chinese. A delegation noted that subprogramme 3 was improving access for students with disabilities, while also referring to the introductory statement of the Special Adviser regarding the focus on inclusive education, particularly for persons with disabilities.

181. A delegation sought further information on the African Continental Free Trade Area and the impact on bilateral economic relations between countries of the agreement establishing that area. The delegation also highlighted that African countries had very effective cooperation mechanisms, citing as examples the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The delegation requested additional information on the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative.

182. A delegation asked why regional and international efforts to achieve the goals of NEPAD under the 2030 Agenda had been omitted from subprogramme 3, unlike in previous programme narratives, and requested that those objectives be reinstated.

183. A delegation queried the statement made by the Special Adviser on the need to extend cooperation with other entities, asking whether the nature of the cooperation had changed without an evaluation having been conducted. In the view of the delegation, there should have been an evaluation before a decision was taken on the future orientation of the programme.

Programme 10

Trade and development

184. At its 12th meeting, on 11 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 10, Trade and development ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 12\)](#) and [A/74/6 \(Sect. 13\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed

programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

185. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

186. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation of the programme. Delegations commended UNCTAD on its efforts in support of developing countries, least developed countries and countries in transition, particularly in improving productive capacities and addressing the digital and technological divides, as well as ensuring judicious macroeconomic governance and boosting funding for development. A delegation praised the existence of “pockets of excellence”, such as UNCTAD, within the Secretariat and voiced support for ITC as a technical body. The importance of evaluation in improving the work of the programme was also highlighted.

187. Support was expressed for the African Continental Free Trade Area and clarification was requested as to how UNCTAD would continue its coordinating role in that regard. Questions were raised in respect of illicit financial flows and the volume of illicit cross-border trade that had an impact on tax revenues, as well as the analytical focus of UNCTAD in that area.

188. Questions were raised by a number of delegations as to whether there had been a change in the mandate that had led to changes in the objective and other modifications of the programme plan, such as the omission in the objective under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, of references to decent work for all and the eradication of poverty in least developed countries; references to middle-income countries from the overall orientation; and references to North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

189. Under subprogramme 3, International trade and commodities, it was noted that the objective omitted a reference to the participation of all countries in international trade. In respect of the highlighted planned result for 2020, clarification was requested in respect of cross-border trade, where a pilot training programme had been undertaken in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia that was expected to be replicated in other areas. A delegation, while noting that that highlighted result was relevant, asked why the section contained no references to the planned activity in the sphere of commodities. The same delegation pointed out that the proposed resource requirements for the subprogramme were higher than for any other. In that regard, and in view of the informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on commodity markets held on 15 May 2019, clarification was requested as to how UNCTAD planned to address the subject of commodity diversification.

190. A delegation expressed its support for the work of UNCTAD on e-trade and the digital economy under subprogramme 4, Technology and logistics, and highlighted the importance of promoting and improving regulations concerning e-commerce, including through the work of the World Trade Organization on trade-related aspects of e-commerce.

191. A delegation suggested that the international trade system was in crisis and that the World Trade Organization, as its main regulator, was in need of reform to increase its effectiveness in combating protectionism, which had an especially damaging effect on least developed countries. It was noted that UNCTAD support was particularly relevant at a time when increased unilateral restrictive sanctions pressure was being

exerted by some countries on a number of States in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which was unacceptable as it could lead, over the long term, to a degradation of mutual trust among economic actors and a breakdown in international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation said that the Committee was not the appropriate forum in which to discuss sanctions regimes.

Programme 11 Environment

192. At its 10th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 11, Environment (A/74/6 (Sect. 14)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

193. The Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of the Secretariat, responded to queries raised during the its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

194. Delegations expressed thanks for the presentation of the programme. One voiced support for the proposed programme budget and for the programme of work of UNEP for 2020 and emphasized the importance of three priority areas: marine litter, wastewater and waste management.

195. A delegation noted the importance of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Santiago in December 2019, and called upon Member States to participate in the session, at which the Conference of the Parties would seek to establish ambitious and enforceable commitments to tackle global warming. The delegation referred to the event as a “blue” conference, pointing out that oceans would be a priority theme and that it would have a Latin American and Caribbean seal. A question was raised as to what coordination activities were being conducted by United Nations entities preparing for the event.

196. Regarding paragraph 14.9, under the heading “Recent developments”, a delegation asked why there was no reference to the specific deliverables that the programme planned to deliver with regard to the quality of the environment in cities. The same delegation, noting that that issue had been mentioned under programme 12, Human settlements, remarked that, owing to the physical proximity of UNEP to UN-Habitat in Nairobi, work in that area could be addressed alongside that carried out under programme 12.

197. With regard to the planned activities under subprogramme 1, Climate change, in supporting countries in their adoption of energy efficiency standards, a delegation expressed concern, asking whether UNEP had the expertise to develop such standards. The delegation further questioned the emphasis placed by subprogramme 1 on the refrigeration and air-conditioning sectors as major energy consumers, saying that it would have been more appropriate to refer to the achievement of climate goals rather than specific climate change mitigation and adaptation targets. It was further noted that temperatures were projected to rise, as referenced in paragraph 14.9, irrespective of the Paris Agreement, and that achieving energy efficiency went beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On the latter point, the view was expressed that the

importance of clean air and air quality would be better addressed under subprogramme 5, Chemicals, waste and air quality.

198. A delegation observed that the issue of energy efficiency remained under intense debate in the forum of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and sought further clarification as to how plans related to energy efficiency had been organized under subprogramme 1, as an intergovernmental consensus on that issue had not yet been reached.

199. A delegation expressed support for the findings set out in the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled “Global warming of 1.5°C”, in which a call was made for further reductions in global emissions. Another delegation, referring to paragraph 14.9, said that the Committee was not the appropriate forum in which to discuss the report of the Intergovernmental Panel.

200. A question was raised about the alignment of the objectives of the subprogrammes with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the alignment of the objective of subprogramme 1 with Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), which was not included in paragraph 14.20. Another delegation agreed, noting that the alignment of the subprogramme objectives with the Goals appeared to be inconsistent.

201. With regard to subprogramme 2, Resilience to disasters and conflicts, a delegation asked whether work would be undertaken to provide assistance in the response to natural disasters, in particular in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique. Information was also sought in relation to the programme’s partnership with other entities, in particular agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to provide assistance before and after catastrophic events. The delegation asked whether the assistance provided to countries was continuous or was dependent on a Member State making a request. Another delegation echoed similar concerns and called upon UNEP to continue to pursue efforts to tackle the consequences of disasters and provide support to countries that had experienced natural disasters and been affected by climate change.

202. A further question was raised about the assistance, if any, that was provided to countries where a United Nations peacekeeping presence had ended. Noting that such assistance had been provided by the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, a delegation asked whether UNEP would continue to provide assistance on the ground.

203. With regard to subprogramme 3, Healthy and productive ecosystems, a delegation expressed appreciation for the increased efforts to curb marine litter but also emphasized the need to tackle all sources of marine pollution, not only plastic pollution. The importance of preserving ocean ecology was emphasized, and a question was raised about cooperation with other organizations that undertook similar activities, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

204. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020 under subprogramme 4, Environmental governance, a delegation asked how UNEP would strengthen its institutional capacity and legal frameworks to promote environmental governance.

205. Another delegation noted with appreciation the efforts to increase institutional capacities in order to establish stronger environmental measures that contributed to the achievement of Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) in particular, and sought additional information on the programme’s engagement with the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

206. With regard to subprogramme 6, Resource efficiency, a delegation noted the focus on sustainable production in achieving Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), but also expressed concern that, as the format of the programme plan allowed for only one result to be highlighted, there was no emphasis on sustainable consumption. Similar views were expressed by another delegation, which concurred that equal consideration should be given to sustainable consumption and, in that regard, requested additional details about the work of the programme in that area. Further clarification was also sought as to whether there was a deliverable planned that focused on the consumption of fresh water.

207. A question was raised about the impact on the work of the programme of the reform of the United Nations development system.

208. It was asked whether UNEP had implemented or planned to implement corrective actions in response to a recommendation by OIOS about accountability gaps between its operations and its strategic plans.

Programme 12

Human settlements

209. At its 8th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 12, Human settlements (A/74/6 (Sect. 15)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

210. The Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of (UN-Habitat) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

211. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the programme and welcomed the strategic focus of the programme plan. A delegation observed that the programme was well articulated.

212. Clarification was sought as to whether the programme included efforts to address issues related to human-wildlife conflict and the balancing of environmental conservation with human settlements and economic development policies. A delegation remarked that it had been the victim of its own success in setting aside areas for wildlife and subsequently having such wildlife encroach into areas of human settlement and asked whether any part of UN-Habitat could provide assistance.

213. A delegation expressed concern about the wide range of activities covered under the programme of work and encouraged a streamlined approach to and greater strategic focus on sustainable urbanization that built upon the core expertise of UN-Habitat while drawing expertise in other thematic areas from the specialized agencies. It was further suggested that deliverables, for example those in connection with seminars, workshops and training events, include as a priority activities that could have a greater positive impact on human settlements.

214. It was asked whether the formulation of the proposed programme budget had been influenced by the current financial situation of the programme. Clarification was also sought regarding the alignment of the operational work of the programme with the demand of the Member States for support.

215. With regard to paragraph 15.9, under the heading "Overall orientation", a delegation sought additional information on the impact of the new governance

structure of UN-Habitat on its forthcoming programmes and activities and how UN-Habitat planned to undertake the streamlining and rationalization of its activities in view of the new strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, which had recently been approved by the UN-Habitat Assembly, the first session of which had been held from 27 to 31 May 2019.

216. Regarding the strategy and external factors for 2020 presented under the heading “Overall orientation”, a delegation pointed to the unique format of the report, which deviated from the reports on other programmes, in which the expected outcomes for 2018 had been included in an annex and were thus entirely separate from the presentation of programme 12, and sought clarification regarding the distinction. Another delegation noted that significant changes had been made to the structure of the report, which had led to a presentation that was specific to programme 12 and other entities subject to programmatic restructuring, resulting in the programme performance information for 2018 being presented in an annex.

217. Regarding subprogramme 1, Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum, a delegation, referring as an example to its own country, where shanty towns were expanding and spreading, asked what activities were being undertaken by UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to provide upstream support for the building of sustainable cities.

218. A delegation sought clarification regarding the inclusion of General Assembly resolution [72/277](#), entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”, in the list of mandates guiding the work of subprogramme 3, Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment. The delegation stated that the resolution was not directly related to the work of UN-Habitat. Another delegation observed that, given the need for a holistic approach to climate change and sustainable urbanization, the inclusion of resolution [72/277](#) was justifiable. The same delegation stressed the importance of respecting the work of other bodies and not taking on issues that were not within the remit of the Committee.

219. Additional information was sought as to whether the programme had reflected the challenges arising from migration, including internal migration from rural areas to cities and the large-scale movement of people affected by conflicts. On the latter point, information was also sought regarding cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in addressing the needs of people living in provisional settlements.

220. A question was raised as to how the programme would implement, across its new subprogrammes, UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 1/3, on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda, given that capacity development was of a cross-cutting nature that required an integrated approach.

221. Several delegations expressed reservations about the new format of the proposed programme budget, referring to difficulties in understanding what the programme would deliver. One cited the example of subprogramme 3, in which the highlighted planned result for 2020 was focused on one result of capacity-building activities in a single country, which did not allow for a broader understanding of the impact of the reorganization of the activities of UN-Habitat across its subprogrammes under the new strategic plan. Some delegations also pointed to the lack of detailed information in the presentation of the programmes. One pointed out that General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#), in which the Assembly had approved the transition from a biennial to an annual budget, was not linked to the change in the format of the report. The same delegation stressed that Member States were the owners of the programmes and that, in that regard, it was important to retain elements of the previous strategic framework with regard to the presentation of programmes. That

view was echoed by several other delegations, who stressed the need to revert to the previous format. Concern was also expressed about the discontinuation of elements of the old format that helped Member States to make the necessary amendments to the programme of work. Some delegations stated that they reserved the right to express further views on the issue of the format in subsequent meetings after language-specific discussions were held.

222. Several delegations expressed support for the new format of the proposed programme budget and welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to provide a strategically oriented presentation that contained a clear description of the outcomes and the results to which the Secretariat would contribute and that was aligned with the reform being undertaken by the Secretary-General. A delegation indicated an understanding of the concern expressed about the format, but noted that, with the move to an annual budget, some aspects needed to change, which would allow for more strategic thinking. It was recognized that change was difficult and that future improvements might be necessary, but that the new format was a step in the right direction.

Programme 13

International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

223. At its 8th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice ([A/74/6 \(Sect.16\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

224. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of UNODC and the Secretariat, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

225. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for UNODC and commended the Office on its work, particularly in respect of its ability to effectively cover a variety of fields, including drugs and terrorism, and its important role as the primary international body for drug control and crime prevention. In that regard, a delegation suggested that greater clarity of the linkage between drugs and terrorism could be introduced by renaming the Office the “United Nations Office on Drugs, Crime and Terrorism”. Clarification was sought regarding the potential vulnerability of the work of the Office in view of its reliance primarily on extrabudgetary funding. On the issue of extrabudgetary funding, a delegation sought further information on the figure of approximately \$300 million cited on the UNODC website.

226. Several delegations welcomed the approach of aligning the programme plan with the Sustainable Development Goals. While the work of UNODC had a value per se, and not solely as an instrument for achieving the Goals, it was recalled that combating the conditions that produced terrorism was the foundation of the Organization’s counter-terrorism strategy and that it was helpful to highlight the programme’s alignment with the Goals. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Secretariat’s approach in framing the presentation of the programme budget in that way and suggested that further effort be made to ensure that all programmes be framed in terms of objectives and activities in support of the Goals.

227. A delegation found that the programme remained unbalanced. It expressed the view that it had become unbalanced when the activities of the Office were aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and there was a risk of creating a false impression of the programme's mandate. Although the work of UNODC could contribute to the achievement of the Goals, it was stressed that it was important to ensure that the unique mandate of UNODC related to the fight against drugs, crime and terrorism not be obscured by aligning it with the Goals. In that context, the delegation requested that the Secretariat revert to the previous format and methodology used for the strategic framework. Further, it noted that the new methodology of the programme was said to be based on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process" and associated discussions. The new methodology created a wrong impression about the operational tasks of UNODC and the needs and expectations of Member States. The present programme should serve as a comprehensive road map of the Office's activities across all of the subprogrammes, as was the case with the strategic framework. Another delegation highlighted the semantic difference between the terms "alignment" and "link", noting that "link" would be more appropriate than "alignment", which implied that the Sustainable Development Goals were the main mandate of the Office. The delegation further remarked on the difficulty of referring to paragraphs that were not numbered in the report and stressed the need for them to be numbered.

228. Under subprogramme 2, A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem, a delegation expressed the view that the reference to a reduced flow of illegal drugs from Afghanistan in the highlighted result in 2018 was questionable in view of the increasing volume of poppy seed produced in Afghanistan.

229. Under subprogramme 3, Countering corruption, a delegation suggested that broader information be included on efforts to support Member States in the ratification of or accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

230. Regarding subprogramme 4, Terrorism prevention, a delegation sought clarification in connection with the deliverable on "expediting the judicial process", under the heading "Result and evidence" of the highlighted result in 2018, notably whether UNODC was functioning as a legal entity. In that regard, it queried whether any duplication existed between the work of UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which had provided assistance to Chad in drafting legislation in which terrorism was recognized as a crime.

231. UNODC was commended on its work under subprogramme 6, Research, trend analysis and forensics, notably on preventing new forms of drug addiction among young people and on the Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances. A delegation noted that opiate abuse was a problem for both developed and developing countries and requested clarification of the best approaches to addressing that issue. A delegation voiced its support for the highlighted planned result for 2020, namely, estimating the number of hidden victims of trafficking in persons, and encouraged the Office to work closely with other organizations in that area and to measure the implementation of the related Sustainable Development Goals.

232. Under subprogramme 7, Policy support, a delegation expressed the view that references to "violent extremism" under the highlighted planned result for 2020 provided a misleading view of the mandate of the Office and requested that the term be replaced with "terrorism prevention". It also observed that the key mandate of UNODC in the field of prevention of terrorism had not been mentioned in the text.

233. A delegation commended the Office on its work under subprogramme 8, Technical cooperation and field support, noting with satisfaction the Group of Five

for the Sahel initiative, and requested clarification as to whether UNODC was acting as a separate entity in that regard or in tandem with the Sahel Alliance.

234. Under subprogramme 9, Provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the United Nations intergovernmental bodies, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a delegation proposed that in paragraph 16.77, the phrase “monitoring and promoting the implementation of and full compliance with international drug control treaties” be replaced by “monitoring substances under international control” to better reflect recently agreed language. A delegation noted that the International Narcotics Control Board should be reflected separately and that the presentation of a consolidated proposal for the subprogramme did not reflect discussions of Member States in Vienna, and expressed its support for the reinstatement of the proposed establishment of the post of Legal Adviser under the Control Board in the Secretariat. A delegation noted that the Control Board had confirmed the classification of Botswana as a transit country, but that the only assistance offered in that regard was capacity-building for reporting on drug control conventions. Clarification was sought regarding the assistance that could be provided by UNODC to more effectively help transit countries to close loopholes in drug control legislation.

Programme 14

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

235. At its 15th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 17\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

236. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

237. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and noted the importance of the programme in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The view was expressed that gender issues were cross-cutting in nature and applied to all entities of the United Nations system.

238. A delegation expressed appreciation for the march in Santiago in which women walked peacefully in favour of women’s reproductive rights and greater punishment for gender-based violence.

239. Various contributions made by UN-Women locally were highlighted, including in Ethiopia and in Africa as a whole, as well as in Chile, where UN-Women had contributed to the strengthening of civil society organizations active in promoting gender equality across the world. A delegation noted the excellent working relationship with UN-Women since its office was opened in Buenos Aires and highlighted the importance of such programmes as the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls and the Win-Win programme for the economic empowerment of women. A delegation expressed gratitude for the support that had been provided at the governmental level and referred to a bill against sexual abuse that had been adopted in April 2019. Another delegation recognized the work of UN-Women with the private sector.

240. A delegation highlighted that, in 2020, the world would celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. While much had been achieved, no country had reached full gender equality yet and much work remained to be done. The view was expressed that the results were slow to materialize despite concerted efforts. A delegation recalled that Africa was the continent with the lowest number of girls in school and that such practices as breast ironing and female genital mutilation continued to prevail on the continent. Several delegations stressed that the United Nations must accelerate its efforts to translate its work into concrete results.

241. A delegation emphasized its support for the programme in the areas of promoting women's dignity and economic empowerment and preventing violence and discrimination against women and girls. The view was expressed that UN-Women should focus on those core mandates to support Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

242. A delegation noted the importance of the work of UN-Women with multiple institutions and actors in addressing the underlying social norms that fail to prevent violence against women, emphasizing that the involvement of communities, including schools and the younger generation, could bring about more sustainable change.

243. It was highlighted that women's and girls' rights were fundamental and pertained to all. A delegation was of the view that it was essential to mobilize the full potential of women for maximum economic and social growth.

244. Clarification was sought in connection with the lack of action to study the importance of the scale and size of women's contributions. A delegation expressed its view that one way to increase awareness of the importance of gender equality was to underscore the role and contribution of women in economic and social affairs. A delegation expressed satisfaction with the fact that the United Nations had reached gender parity in senior management.

245. Regarding the overall orientation, the view was expressed that the alignment with all of the Sustainable Development Goals was misleading given that only Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) was the prerogative of UN-Women. The view was also expressed that the alignment with the Charter appeared artificial. Divergent opinions were expressed regarding the alignment with the Goals. One delegation expressed the view that, given the cross-cutting nature of Goal 5, it helped the advancement of all of the other Goals, while another stated that UN-Women could also make a contribution to Goals other than Goal 5. The same delegation expressed concern about the misleading nature of paragraphs 17.5 to 17.10 under the heading "Recent developments", and the objective in paragraph 17.23, given that they were not directly related to the work of UN-Women.

246. With regard to cooperation with other entities, referred to in paragraph 17.17 under the heading "Strategy and external factors for 2020", the view was expressed that a precise consolidated statement on how UN-Women coordinates its work with other entities should be developed. In addition, it was noted that a similar lack of detail related to coordination had been identified in the proposed programme plans of other entities.

247. It was reiterated that any country-based activities carried out by UN-Women, including interaction with civil society (as mentioned in paras 17.13 and 17.29), must be carried out only in response to a request by the particular Member State.

248. Regarding subprogramme 1, Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships, it was noted that the highlighted planned result for 2020 included the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, while not referring to intergovernmental support.

Clarification was sought regarding whether UN-Women could alternatively refer to support at an intergovernmental level in 2020.

249. A delegation noted the highlighted result in 2018 related to the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding rural women and expressed the view that the planned result for 2020 should place greater focus on intergovernmental support. Regarding the same highlighted result, another delegation referred to the prevalence of specific conditions, such as isolated, often very poor areas, unpaid and invisible labour or patriarchal stereotypes, which oftentimes led to situations in which rural women and girls were suffering from multiple forms of discrimination, and in that regard stressed that leadership by rural women and accelerated participation by women in political and social processes were indispensable in eliminating intersectional gender discrimination.

250. A delegation sought additional information on the rationale for the existence of only two subprogrammes, which appeared to be insufficient in accurately reflecting a very broad and cross-cutting programme such as “Gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

251. Regarding subprogramme 2, Policy and programme activities, a delegation raised concern about the rewording of the objective contained in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 from “To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality ...” to “... eliminate and prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls”. In that connection, UN Women was requested to clarify the basis for the change, notably the mandate for the significant reduction in the scope of the subprogramme.

252. A question was raised about the meaning of the term “service delivery institutions” referenced in paragraph 17.29.

253. Several delegations expressed support for the proposed programme plan of UN-Women. A delegation expressed the view that the presentation of the programme needed improvement and that the report had been written in terms that were too general, with limited linkages to the financial portion. Another delegation expressed full support for the changes in the presentation proposed by the Secretary-General.

254. A delegation noted the reference in the programme to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and recalled that the Compact had not been universally approved, given that multiple Member States had voted against it in the General Assembly.

255. A delegation referred to information provided in paragraph 17.39 on resources that would be provided for the Executive Board in line with General Assembly resolution 64/289 and annex I to Assembly resolution 48/162, and sought clarification as to what the Secretariat had done with the unspent resources. It also sought clarification regarding the increase in the proposed resources for travel and the changes made under the staffing structure. In response, several delegations recalled that resource discussions fell outside the purview of the Committee.

Programme 15

Economic and social development in Africa

256. At its 12th meeting, on 11 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa (A/74/6 (Sect. 18)). The Committee also had

before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

257. The Executive Secretary of ECA and a representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

258. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and the work carried out by the Commission. Some delegations noted the work done by ECA to support countries in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and welcomed in particular the nexus between the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

259. A delegation highlighted the efforts of ECA in providing support and technical assistance to promote economic growth and to build an environment for investment in the region and encouraged the Commission to continue to promote technology and innovation for development in Africa. A delegation pointed out that the availability of uninterrupted Internet connectivity remained a challenge for the region and expressed the hope that ECA would be working to address the problem.

260. A delegation drew attention to paragraph 18.19 and expressed appreciation for the Commission's intention to move its work beyond merely focusing on the public sector and to include the private sector, as well as its intention to provide support through its work on private sector financing. Another delegation, recognizing the importance of ECA in promoting economic advancement and domestic market capacity-building in the African region, pointed out that other entities had more prominent roles in discussions on private sector financing and stressed that the Committee was not the forum for creating new mandates.

261. A delegation commented that the proposed programme plan for 2020 accurately reflected the good work carried out by ECA, especially in diagnosing the economic challenges in Africa and in providing remedies. The same delegation noted that the subprogrammes were in line with his country's leadership vision for an economic transformation that was knowledge-based, focused on the private sector and export-led. On the latter point, another delegation concurred that the focus on a private sector-led and export-led economy was the formula that had proven successful.

262. A delegation encouraged ECA to give more prominence to South-South cooperation on the African continent and to play a matchmaker role in building governance capacity. The same delegation also encouraged the Commission to improve the dissemination of its publications, given that they currently did not have a broad reach and that they should be targeted not only to Governments but also to the private sector, academia and civil society. Another delegation noted that ECA was a credible institution that, by acting as a think tank and providing technical support to African countries and other institutions in the region, including the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, had made significant progress towards the achievement of sustainable development. The work of the Commission in promoting and investing in human capital, which was the continent's most important resource, was appreciated.

263. Some delegations expressed serious concern about the illicit financial flows on the continent, which were likened to a gangrene on African economies, and noted that invoicing errors deprived States of hard currency that could otherwise have been used to invest in infrastructure, thereby inhibiting improvement of the conditions of life in Africa and compromising prospects for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. Clarification was sought as to how ECA would address the issue of invoicing errors.

Separately, a delegation noted the discrepancies in the figures reported for illicit financial flows and sought clarification regarding the astronomical amounts cited by different sources, ranging from tens of billions of dollars to over \$150 billion annually. Delegations also noted that the African economy was still losing \$150 billion every year to the scourge of illicit financial flows, despite efforts to eliminate them. The delegations expressed the hope that at a time when Africa was poised to build the largest free trade area in the world and to step up its trade with the rest of the world, ECA would provide support to the region in tackling the problem.

264. A delegation expressed concern that the programme narrative made no mention of the impact of the informal economy, which, the delegation stated, was damaging to the economies of the countries in the region, as it harmed the diversification of resources. Further clarification was sought in that regard.

265. Regarding the overall orientation, several delegations expressed concern about the alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda with the objectives and the deliverables of the respective subprogrammes. A delegation noted the planned alignment of the programme with the Charter, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 and was of the view that the Organization should not link programmes to the Charter, since the Charter represented an overall vision for the Organization and was not a management tool. The delegation added that there could be a benefit in splitting the vision of the programme and the overall strategic orientation. In that regard, the delegation stressed the merits of clearly highlighting that Agenda 2063 was indeed the vision of the “future we want”, as expressed in the annex to General Assembly resolution [66/288](#). Another delegation sought clarification of the rationale behind the proposed alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, echoing comments made with regard to other programme plans that the alignment was inconsistent and that, in its view, aligning the programme budget with the Goals was not an imperative. The delegation further observed that the alignment, as presented, limited what could be done under the programme and suggested that using the term “linkage” rather than “alignment” to describe the relationship between the Goals and the programme could resolve the issue.

266. As noted in paragraph 18.18 (c), under the heading “Strategy and external factors for 2020”, a delegation welcomed the Commission’s intention to design and implement innovative financing models for infrastructure, human, physical and social assets for a transforming Africa and sought more information on how that would be achieved.

267. A delegation drew attention to the findings of the evaluations, in particular paragraph 18.26 (c), on weaknesses identified in the Commission’s programme design, management, monitoring and reporting. Clarification was sought as to how ECA was addressing those weaknesses.

268. With regard to the format of the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2020, and specifically subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy and governance, subprogramme 3, Private sector development and finance, subprogramme 4, Data and statistics, subprogramme 5, Climate change, environment and natural resources management, subprogramme 6, Gender equality and women’s empowerment and subprogramme 9, Poverty, inequality and social policy, it was noted that, for 2020, all of those subprogrammes had different titles compared with those approved by the General Assembly for the period 2018–2019. In that connection, the delegation sought clarification as to whether there had been a substantive change in the mandates of those subprogrammes. Some delegations queried the placement of the programme performance information for 2018 in an annex, rather than being grouped together with the proposed programme plan for 2020, as seemed to be the case for other

programme plans. A delegation was of the view that the presentation could be further reviewed.

269. A delegation noted that, in the past, the Committee would be provided with a conference room paper detailing the changes between the approved programme and the proposed programme plan and observed that that had not been the case for 2020, which made it more difficult to consider the programme.

270. With regard to subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy and governance, and in particular in connection with the additional support requested for Member States to further customize and adapt a prototype modelling framework as a tool to help African countries in their policy formulation and implementation processes, clarification was sought regarding how that support was being provided and on whether a mechanism was already in place or whether support was provided on the basis of requests received from countries.

271. Regarding subprogramme 2, Regional integration and trade, some delegations expressed reservations regarding the “Challenge and response” section under the heading “Highlighted planned result for 2020”, where it was stated that the “challenge” had been that, despite the existence of political will as evidenced by the signing and ratification of the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, some Member States had requested further advice on how to fully benefit from the Free Trade Area. On that point, delegations observed that Member States requesting support on how to benefit from free trade was not a challenge, since it was the role of the Commission to provide support to Member States. Another delegation, noting the difficulties arising from the fact that paragraphs were not numbered, pointed to differences in the French translation compared with the English version, in which it was implied that Member States requesting support amounted to a challenge. The delegation noted that, in the French version, the message was completely different, as it referred to the Commission providing support to Member States so as to better leverage the benefits of signing the Agreement, and pointed out that there was no mention of a challenge. A delegation enquired about the definition of the term “challenge”, noting that, in several cases, a request for services was characterized as a challenge.

272. Concerning subprogramme 3, Private sector development and finance, several delegations stressed the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area and commended the efforts of ECA to address the issue in the countries in the region. Furthermore, it appeared in the report and during discussions among delegations that many African countries still needed to be fully informed of the challenges and opportunities of the agreement establishing the free trade area. In that connection, a delegation requested an update on the progress made towards the signing of the Agreement. A delegation enquired about regional review reports and sought clarification as to whether agencies, funds and programmes were involved in the process.

273. Regarding subprogramme 4, Data and statistics, several delegations expressed support for the technical assistance and advisory services that would be provided to countries of the region and pleaded for more coverage, owing to the importance of statistics for planning purposes and to the fact that many countries were grappling with the problem of outdated statistics. Several delegations emphasized the need for the Commission to focus attention on data and statistics and on providing countries of the region with proper structural capacity in that area. A delegation, remarking that the term “challenge” seemed to have different meanings in different contexts, noted that, in the case of statistics, the need to deal with outdated statistics was indeed a serious challenge to be overcome. On developing data and statistics, a delegation noted that that was an area in which regional commissions could add value.

274. With regard to subprogramme 5, Climate change, environment and natural resources management, a delegation enquired about the legislative mandates emanating from United Nations bodies that supported activities related to the strengthening of the blue economy. With reference to paragraph 18.63, the delegation sought clarification regarding the source of the funding cited in therein for the field and technical cooperation project on blue economy governance and policy implementation and asked whether voluntary contributions were the source. Another delegation enquired about the role of international finance in the activities of the subprogramme.

275. Regarding subprogramme 6, Gender equality and women's empowerment, a delegation noted that the work carried out by ECA in advancing gender equality through the development of programmes that promoted women and girls and youth was to be commended.

276. With regard to the format of subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for development, a delegation noted that, in component 1, Subregional activities in North Africa, women and youth in Africa featured prominently in the highlighted planned result for 2020. The delegation observed, however, that there was no mention of an alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). Regarding component 2, Subregional activities in West Africa, under the same subprogramme, a delegation sought clarification regarding how the African continent should look at the issue of population and demographics, as well as the issues of gender disparity and hunger. The delegation raised a question about how ECA interpreted the concept of historical demographics and whether there were other elements that needed to be taken into account to address the issues of gender disparity and hunger.

277. Furthermore, under subprogramme 7, component 3, Subregional activities in Central Africa, a delegation noted that the highlighted planned result for 2020 referred to increased economic diversification in Central Africa. Information on the alignment of the subprogramme with Sustainable Development Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), however, was notably missing. The delegation remarked that inconsistencies with respect to alignment with the Goals generated confusion and sought the views of ECA on the rationale for the alignments.

278. Concerning subprogramme 9, Poverty, inequality and social policy, under the heading "Highlighted planned result for 2020", a delegation sought clarification of the use of the term "win-win", and specifically on the statement that making migration a win-win for all involved contributed to reducing poverty.

279. Despite the adoption of numerous resolutions and programmes focusing on youth by both the United Nations and the African Union, such as Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#), the African Youth Decade 2009–2018 and the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, several delegations expressed their concern about the absence of a subprogramme dedicated explicitly to that subgroup. A delegation suggested that perhaps the programme should have a tenth subprogramme to deal with youth and employment, given that unemployment in that demographic was a growing trend in Africa that, if left unaddressed, would become a demographic time bomb. In response to a comment from ECA that the issue of youth was considered a cross-cutting topic, the same delegation expressed the opinion that the issue of women was cross-cutting in nature and constituted a subprogramme by itself. In that regard, the delegation stated that if the cross-cutting issue of youth and employment was not considered a subprogramme, then, by the same logic, subprogramme 6, Gender equality and women's empowerment, should also not be considered separately.

280. A delegation welcomed the efforts of ECA to assist African States in addressing climate change and recalled that States had already expressed the wish to draw up national plans for development on that aspect long before the Paris Agreement had been signed.

281. A question was raised concerning the Commission's expected cooperation with and role vis-à-vis the new resident coordinator system, which went into effect in December 2018, as well as coherence between ECA and the new system.

282. A delegation recognized the importance of effective monitoring and reporting on efficiency gains.

283. Some delegations commented that the expression of high expectations by some members of the Committee towards programmes, in particular as they related to the creation of new mandates, was not within the purview of the work of the Committee. Another delegation recalled that the role of the Committee was to accept, reject, curtail and/or reformulate programmes, especially if the programmes were not well elaborated.

Programme 16

Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

284. At its 16th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

285. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

286. Delegations expressed thanks to the Executive Secretary for the introduction of the programme. One voiced support for the objective of fighting poverty and building knowledge on issues related to financing for development.

287. A delegation emphasized the importance of meeting the full ambition of the reform agenda being pursued by the Secretary-General and focusing on areas of comparative advantage, saying that regional architecture should be streamlined where possible to ensure that the United Nations country team had the support necessary to assist in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A delegation also raised a question concerning the alignment of the programme plan with the development pillar.

288. Clarification was sought as to the similarities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and ESCAP, with it being noted that Azerbaijan had been referenced by both Commissions. A delegation asked whether the work of ESCAP could be shared with African countries that had a different level of development in terms of infrastructure and technology.

289. Concern was expressed regarding the new format, with one delegation referring to the lack of information on the proposed programme plan for 2020. Another delegation welcomed the new format.

290. With regard to the strategy and external factors under the heading “Overall orientation”, in particular paragraph 19.15, a delegation drew attention to the continued reliance on analytical, intergovernmental and capacity-building work to support Member States in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda, asking whether there were other ongoing issues and undertakings and whether synergies could be foreseen by ESCAP in the region following the enhancement of the resident coordinator system. The delegation also requested clarification about and information on related synergies from the joint self-evaluation by ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, referenced in paragraph 19.17 (c).

291. Regarding subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation, and the highlighted result in 2018, clarification was sought regarding the importance of simplifying trade processes to regional integration and to making trade more inclusive, progress in developing national paperless trade systems and support for cross-border paperless trade. Furthermore, information was sought on the results to be achieved and whether those results could be scaled appropriately so as to apply to other regions. A delegation also said that trade facilitation was important and, in that regard, that there should be close cooperation with the World Customs Organization and the World Trade Organization through the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Another delegation expressed concern that the creation of a new structure within the United Nations would overlap with the mandates of the principal international organizations responsible for customs and trade issues and said that it was not prepared for the United Nations to establish international protocols and standards on paperless trade.

292. With regard to subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development, a delegation requested clarification regarding the real outcome of the highlighted result in 2018 for component 2, Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia. Whereas the highlighted result, “enhanced science and policy interaction and cooperation in addressing transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia”, pertained to the component, which, in its capacity as the secretariat of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, had coordinated a joint assessment of transboundary air pollution, the result referenced in paragraph 19.115 highlighted two other subregional initiatives and coordination processes facilitated by ESCAP, namely, the establishment of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership and the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum. It was not clear which of the two were related to the result.

293. Regarding the same subprogramme, a delegation said that the resource reductions in the subprogrammes should be fully justified and evenly allocated, having noted that reductions under component 3, Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia, were higher than for others. Another delegation suggested that the Committee was the appropriate forum in which to discuss mandate implementation, but not resources.

294. A delegation, noting the alignment of subprogramme 9, Energy, with Sustainable Development Goal 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) and Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), asked whether the subprogramme could also be aligned with Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

Programme 17

Economic development in Europe

295. At its 16th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 17, Economic development in Europe ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

296. The Executive Secretary of the ECE introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

297. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the work of the ECE in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda in the region. A delegation observed the growing importance of regional commissions in advancing progress on sustainable development and the overall improvement of quality of life and welcomed the invaluable contribution of ECE in various policy areas. A delegation noted that ECE represented the only universal active platform for economic development in the region. A delegation also remarked on references made to Central Asia in the programme and sought clarification on the delineation of the work of ECE, ESCWA and ESCAP. A delegation observed that the programme would promote technical cooperation with economies in transition, with the aim of achieving sustainable development across the region. Another delegation expressed the importance of all of the subprogrammes and indicated that its Government would actively participate in their implementation.

298. Some delegations emphasized the importance of fully achieving the vision of the Secretary-General's reform agenda to reduce duplication and focus on areas of comparative advantage. Regional architecture should be streamlined where possible to ensure that United Nations country teams are fully supported so they can assist in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

299. Regarding inter-agency cooperation and strategic partnership with other United Nations entities, a question was raised concerning the partnership with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular to request more details on collaboration with the Secretariat entity upholding the development pillar.

300. With regard to paragraph 20.16, under the heading "Strategy and external factors for 2020", a delegation noted that the programme would promote interregional cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, and was of the view that North-South cooperation should also be reflected. In that regard, the delegation enquired as to how the 2020 programme plan would encourage developed countries to honour their official development assistance commitments.

301. A delegation expressed the view that the use of statistics on adopted legal instruments as a measure of performance was not proof, in and of itself, of the achievement of results and suggested that more examples of specific projects be provided when numbers of legal instruments are quoted.

302. A delegation expressed the view that the support provided to women, and specifically women entrepreneurs in Central Asia, was welcomed, but it did not see the need to involve women in all activities of the programme, which may entail difficult work, in order to achieve gender balance. Another delegation remarked that the programme referenced the gender perspective in only two subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 6, Trade, and subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population. The delegation further remarked that the alignment of the programme

with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), should be viewed more generally in terms of “linkages”, as opposed to an “alignment”.

303. A delegation underlined the importance of subprogramme 2, Transport, and noted the significant volume of technical regulations approved by Member States on ECE initiatives and on efforts to achieve regional harmonization. A question was raised concerning the plans to achieve greater road safety and on whether any work would be done in the area of vehicle automation.

304. With regard to subprogramme 3, Statistics, a question was raised concerning the theme of statistics and why the term “disaggregated data” did not appear in the proposed programme plan, even though it was mentioned in the *Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals* developed by the Conference of European Statisticians and in the guidance on common elements of statistical legislation. A question was also raised as to the extent to which ECE was involved in the upgrading of tier II and tier III Sustainable Development Goal indicators and whether there were particular indicators that could be expected to shift from tier III to tier II or from tier II to tier I in the near future. A delegation referenced the highlighted result in 2018 and noted that Eastern European countries had been the first to request the development of international guidance on statistical legislation, which had led to the Generic Law on Official Statistics, endorsed by the chief statisticians of 65 countries. The delegation further remarked that Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova had been the first countries to modernize their legal frameworks for statistics in accordance with the Generic Law.

305. Regarding subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, a delegation recognized the efforts of ECE to promote innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships and sought clarification on the global technology facilitation mechanism, including related parameters. On the subject of people-first public-private partnerships championed by ECE and other regional commissions and in view of the 2030 Agenda, the delegation welcomed the adopted broader concept of public-private partnerships that went beyond value for money and towards value for people. The delegation questioned how ECE would use the resources at its disposal to help other regional commissions to promote ECE-developed public-private partnership standards.

306. Clarification was sought on subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, with regard to whether ECE could confirm that 2020 would be a reasonable deadline for the envisaged adoption of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants.

307. Delegations expressed appreciation for the Commission’s efforts in relation to subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population. A delegation highlighted that the expanded use of the Active Ageing Index had helped to address the key issue of demography in Europe and Central Asia and queried whether the subprogramme would develop concrete measures that could reverse demographic trends. A delegation further expressed support for the use of the Index by civil society organizations in order to raise awareness of the contributions of older persons to society.

Programme 18

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

308. At its 17th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/74/6 (Sect. 21)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

309. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

310. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme and for the work it carried out. Several delegations underscored the contributions of the Commission to the region. Specific mentions were made of the support provided to middle-income countries in the region and the research, analytical work and support provided to countries in the formulation of public policies, as well as the work on the facilitation of regional consensus-building. One delegation described the Commission as a beacon for economic and social cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean, noting that the Commission contributed decisively to placing equity at the heart of development.

311. The focus of the programme on the promotion of social inclusion and equality through training and technical assistance on how to develop and disseminate statistics disaggregated by gender was also welcomed.

312. A delegation highlighted the Commission's focus on research and analysis to inform policymaking and underscored the importance of meeting the ambitious reform agenda of the Secretary-General in respect of the United Nations development system. In that regard, the delegation called upon the programme to reduce the duplication of efforts and focus on its comparative advantage in the region. A request was made to ensure that United Nations country teams were fully supported by the programme and that the regional architecture was streamlined and focused on the implementation and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation sought clarification regarding how the improved coordination between the programme and the new resident coordinator system could benefit the countries of the region and the impact that the changes stemming from that reform had had on the programme.

313. Regarding the format of the report, delegations commented that the methodological change in the presentation of information in the subprogrammes resulted in relevant information on the objectives of the subprogrammes being omitted, and that expected results for the future had been left to a single paragraph. It was observed that that reductionist approach did not allow for a deeper understanding of the substantive areas of work in each subprogramme and did not convey the scale of achievements of the programme. As an example, some delegations referred to subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, expressing concern that references to resources necessary for development, which had been included in the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019, had been omitted. Another delegation observed that with the new format, it was difficult to discern whether or not there was a change and what drove such change.

314. A delegation observed that the problem of measuring some deliverables as intangibles, such as public policies, did not provide a balanced view compared with some of the quantifiable deliverables and that that had resulted in those deliverables not being accounted for. It also observed that the reference to legislative mandates had been lost, given that they were included only in the supplementary information.

315. Regarding the alignment of the objectives of the subprogrammes with the Sustainable Development Goals, a delegation noted inconsistencies in the references to alignment with the Goals, which, it was pointed out, had been observed in other programmes, and in that regard sought clarification on how the Commission perceived alignment with the Goals. While noting the importance of Member States being able to achieve the Goals, it was observed that in some cases, despite the small number of Goals identified for alignment, extensive information including specific targets that would measure the progress towards the Goal was provided, whereas in other cases in which a higher number of Goals were identified, such information was absent. As an example, under subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, a question was raised as to why there was no reference to Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), which was a critical Goal for Member States. It was also pointed out that, under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, the planned result for 2020 made specific reference to women in the “Challenge and response” section; however, the alignment of the objective with Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) had been omitted.

316. In reference to paragraph 21.19, under the heading “Strategy and external factors for 2020”, a delegation noted that the programme made reference to coordination with several entities, including the Caribbean Community and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, but did not include other regional entities, specifically the Pacific Alliance and the Forum for the Progress of South America (Prosur). In that connection, a delegation requested the inclusion of a reference to the Pacific Alliance and to Prosur in the programme narrative and in the network of partnerships of the Commission.

317. With regard to subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, a question was raised regarding the mobilization of civil society for climate change. In that regard, a delegation sought clarification on how the programme saw the role of civil society on the proposals and dissemination of ideas for environmental protection. Similarly, a question was raised on how the programme saw the role of the private sector in that regard.

318. A delegation noted the reference to collaboration with UN-Habitat and requested further information on the prospect of setting up a UN-Habitat office in Santiago.

319. Pertaining to subprogramme 8, Natural resources and infrastructure, a request was made to add a reference to “increased competitiveness”, as it was stressed that that was a fundamental aspect for attaining sustainable development in the region.

320. A delegation welcomed subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, and subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, as well as the efforts carried out in the area, including in Haiti. The delegation further noted, however, that while the introductory statement delivered on the programme had referenced Haiti, no reference could be found in the report. Under subprogramme 12, the establishment of a contingent credit line for disasters with the Inter-American Development Bank was mentioned by a delegation. Another delegation noted that the Bahamas had made use of the credit line and enquired whether any other countries had benefited from the credit line. Regarding the highlighted result in 2018, appreciation was expressed for the actions

taken by the programme following the many hurricanes affecting the region. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020, the planned activities pertaining to the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals were noted, and a delegation questioned whether missions other than those mentioned in the “Challenge and response” section had been carried out.

Programme 19

Economic and social development in Western Asia

321. At its 14th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 22\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

322. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

323. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and for the work carried out by ESCWA, especially in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

324. A delegation underlined that the full ambition of the reform agenda of the Secretary-General should be implemented, especially regionally, including reducing duplication, providing full support to country teams and ensuring that the regional architecture was streamlined to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

325. Recalling that the Committee had earlier considered the programme plan for ECA, a delegation remarked on the similarity of the challenges facing the two regions and the approaches taken to tackle them. In that regard, the delegation sought clarification as to the level of cooperation between the two commissions and other regional organizations to exchange best practices and staff. Furthermore, in the context of regional cooperation, in particular the new resident coordinator system, a request was made for details and comments on expectations with regard to the impact of the reform of the United Nations development system and whether it would enhance the support provided to Member States.

326. A delegation noted the Commission’s recognition that the scarcity of reliable and disaggregated data continued to impede the formulation and implementation of policy and in that regard welcomed the focus on building the capacities of national statistical offices.

327. Regarding subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development, a delegation asked whether the “collective expression of the commitment of Arab States to addressing climate change challenges” could really be considered a result as it was merely an expression of commitment. The delegation said that it had been unable to find tangible and concrete deliverables that were aimed at achieving the objectives of the subprogramme, as well as that of other subprogrammes, and sought more information on tangible deliverables.

328. Under subprogramme 2, Social development, appreciation was expressed for the focus placed on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. It was highlighted that the matter pertained to every region and at precisely that time the twelfth meeting

of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was being held in the adjacent conference room. It was also pointed out that in his introductory remarks the representative of the Secretary-General had mentioned that the Commission would work on a more effective definition and identification of the concept of disability. In that connection, clarification was sought as to those planned efforts given that it was understood by the Committee that the concepts had been already clearly defined.

329. Concerning subprogramme 5, Statistics for evidence-based policymaking, specifically under the heading “Highlighted result in 2018”, “Improved measurement of growing Islamic finance in the national accounts context”, clarification was sought concerning the image of and associated reference to a Moroccan banknote in the context of Islamic finance. The view was expressed that Morocco was not part of Western Asia. It was further pointed out that there was quite a gap between the highlighted result and the result and evidence described in the report, namely the “increasing number of countries (from 16 to 18) that have adopted the 2008 System of National Accounts as an integrating framework for all their economic statistics”.

330. Regarding subprogramme 6, Advancement of women, it was noted that a change to the previously approved objective had been proposed and that it would include the achievement of gender justice. In that connection, a delegation noted that the previous objective was broader, asking whether the change stemmed from a new mandate given to the Commission. The same delegation also wished to know why similar changes had been proposed to the objectives of other subprogrammes.

Programme 20

Human rights

331. At its 20th meeting, on 17 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 20, Human rights ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

332. The Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

333. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the programme and the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and emphasized its important role in the promotion and protection of all human rights in strict adherence with the Charter. Several delegations expressed their support for the proposed programme budget for 2020 for programme 20. A delegation welcomed the inclusion of a gender perspective in the programme of work. Some delegations welcomed the emphasis placed by OHCHR on persons with disabilities. A question was raised as to how the programme would promote economic, social and cultural rights and how it would balance those rights with civil and political rights.

334. A delegation welcomed the efforts of OHCHR to increase transparency in its work. The delegation found the practice of holding briefings in Geneva to be a useful approach in strengthening cooperation between Member States and OHCHR and in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights. However, the delegation stressed that those meetings should not be limited to the compilation of the views of

Member States, but rather should be taken into account in the presentation of the programme.

335. Emphasizing that the purpose of the programme plan was to focus on the programmatic and financial aspects of the programme, the delegation expressed its concern that programme 20 had been replaced in the report with “OHCHR” and requested that the report revert to the use of “programme 20” throughout the text. The delegation was of the view that the programme plan should focus on the proposed programme budget for 2020 of programme 20, and should not be about the activities of OHCHR, which was part of the Secretariat and not a separate entity. The delegation did not see merit in including the sections entitled “Highlighted result in 2018” and “Most significant relative variances in deliverables” and further stated that evaluation of activities was not the main goal of the programme plan. The delegation also questioned the inclusion of photographs in the programme narrative, noting that it would justifiably increase the cost of producing the document.

336. The delegation further stressed that OHCHR worked in line with programme 20, and not the other way around, and cautioned that OHCHR seemed to be stepping outside of its mandate. The delegation stated that OHCHR did not have a role in strengthening human rights in the United Nations system, including treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council, as that was the prerogative of Member States. In that regard, the delegation requested that previously used wording be used in the programme plan.

337. Several delegations expressed their concern with the introduction in the report of new language replacing language previously agreed by Member States. In the overall orientation, a delegation expressed its concern on the choice of wording in the programme, stressing that programme language had to be clear and not lead to ambiguities. Referring to the last sentence in paragraph 24.1, which stated that “The Office has a role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law, including international instruments relating to human rights”, the delegation was of the view that such support should be provided in a manner consistent with national priorities, as Member States were owners of the programme.

338. Concern was raised by several delegations on the use in paragraph 24.7 of the term “marginalized, disempowered and excluded communities”, and clarification was sought on the relevance of that term to the programme and mandate of OHCHR.

339. A delegation questioned the inclusion in paragraphs 24.13 and 24.14 of information on evaluation and self-evaluation activities and, in that connection, expressed the view that evaluations not endorsed by competent intergovernmental bodies should not be used to guide the programme. Another delegation welcomed the inclusion of evaluations and self-evaluations in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

340. With regard to strategy and external factors for 2020, a delegation observed that the programme narrative stated that the objectives of the subprogrammes were guided by international law, and expressed the view that the objectives of the subprogrammes should be guided first by international human rights law before being guided by the international humanitarian law, noting the distinction between those two legal frameworks. Although they were complimentary, the delegation noted that international humanitarian law applied in humanitarian situations, whereas international human rights law applied both in times of peace and war.

341. A delegation noted that changes had been made in the formulation of the objectives of all of the subprogrammes in comparison with the programme budget for

the biennium 2018–2019. It enquired as to the reason for the change and requested that the previous formulation be reverted.

342. With regard to subprogramme 1, Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis, a delegation questioned the use of terminology that had no international consensus, such as references to a “human rights-based approach to development”, and requested that such references be removed from the report. Another delegation was of the view that the absence of a concept in a General Assembly resolution did not preclude its inclusion in other documents and reports. Several delegations noted that there was no international consensus on recognizing the right to development as a human right. A delegation expressed its support for international development despite not recognizing the existence of a universal right to development. To that effect, the delegation recalled that article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights referred to “a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being”.

343. Another delegation welcomed the inclusion in the programme of work of rights other than the rights of individuals, in particular the right to development. However, it observed that there appeared to be an imbalance in addressing the different rights within the right to development. The delegation sought clarification on the matter.

344. A delegation questioned the work of the programme on inclusive and just trade, noting that international free trade and international trade agreements fell directly under the mandate of other international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization and International Labour Organization.

345. With regard to the performance measure for the highlighted result for 2020 for subprogramme 1 (b), Right to development, a question was raised about the appropriateness of evidencing the result by the number of national voluntary reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals that included references to the right to development, noting that voluntary reports were by their nature difficult to predict. Some delegations enquired as to whether the programme planned to address the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the right of other States to exercise their right to development.

346. With regard to the highlighted result in 2018 under subprogramme 1 (c), Research and analysis, a delegation noted that the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration had not been universally supported and that it was therefore inappropriate for the programme to advocate for it. In that connection, however, no objections were raised regarding the assistance provided by the programme to countries, upon their request, to facilitate the translation and implementation of the Compact into their respective national plans.

347. Also with regard to the highlighted result for 2020 for subprogramme 1 (c), a delegation questioned the mandate of the programme with respect to human rights monitoring and requested that any such references be removed from the report. A delegation recalled paragraph 4 (f) of General Assembly resolution [48/141](#), in which the Assembly decided that the High Commissioner’s responsibilities included “to play an active role in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”. In that regard, it was observed that monitoring of human rights was a necessary part of the work of the High Commissioner for the fulfilment of that responsibility.

348. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020 for subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, notably the challenge and response, clarification was sought on the rate of only 17 per cent of all State parties that were

fully compliant with their reporting obligations to the treaty bodies, and the planned corrective measures to improve compliance.

349. With regard to table 24.4, on deliverables for the period 2018–2020 under subprogramme 2, a question was raised regarding the decrease in parliamentary documentation and substantive services for meetings, reflected in the 2018 planned and 2018 actual figures, and an explanation was sought as to why the numbers planned for 2019 and 2020 were higher.

350. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020 for subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, a delegation was of the view that the programme did not have a mandate to influence the work of the human rights bodies, nor to strengthen or improve the working methods of the human rights mechanisms, which remained a prerogative of the States.

351. A delegation expressed its support for the planned conference management services to the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies and enquired about addressing the possible duplication of roles between the different mandate holders of the various human rights mechanisms. With regard to the performance measures for the highlighted planned result for 2020 under subprogramme 4, the delegation sought clarification as to what percentage of communications issued by two or more special procedures mandate holders was planned for 2020. The delegation also expressed its readiness to work with the programme on the 2020 review of the status of the treaty body system and the 2021 Human Rights Council reform.

352. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020 for the same subprogramme, a delegation expressed its reservations about the inclusion of country-specific mandates and special procedure mandate holders that did not have universal intergovernmental agreement and support. Another delegation expressed its support for all mandates of programme 20, including the country-specific ones.

353. With regard to the caption below the picture illustrating the highlighted result in 2018 for subprogramme 4, which describes parliaments as one of the branches of Government, a delegation requested that the word “Government” be replaced with “governance”.

354. A question was raised as to how the programme verified information pertaining to alleged violations of human rights received from external parties, such as non-governmental organizations. Information was sought as to how the programme planned to use the extrabudgetary resources raised in line with its legislative mandates and how it would ensure accountability and transparency in the use of such resources.

355. A delegation noted the inconsistent translation of the term “human rights” in the French version of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (“droits de la personne” and “droits de l’homme”) and called for terminology to be used consistently. A different delegation observed that, while both terms were used in French and in that instance did not create confusion, if agreed language existed it should have been used consistently in the translated reports of the Secretary-General.

356. A question was raised regarding the programme plan and whether it included travel to territories not controlled by the constitutional authorities of the respective State.

Programme 21

International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

357. At its 18th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees (A/74/6 (Sect. 25)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

358. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

359. Delegations expressed broad support for the programme, as an important mechanism to ensure protection for refugees and other persons of concern and to achieve durable solutions to their problems without discrimination and taking age, gender and diversity into consideration.

360. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work carried out by UNHCR and its excellent relationships with host countries and other stakeholders, especially in the current increased global refugee crisis. In addition, support was expressed for the Office's internal reform initiatives to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability of humanitarian assistance, as well as its implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework globally to help strengthen protection, assistance and durable solutions for refugees.

361. A delegation expressed the view that migration and refugee flows were global phenomena and expressed support for the handling of those phenomena through collective efforts in an organized, safe, regular and responsible way. The delegation emphasized that there should be a special focus on fair and balanced burden sharing and sharing of responsibility in assisting refugees around the world, while taking into account the existing contributions and different capacities and resources of States. The delegation also noted positively: the inclusion of vulnerable groups of people with disabilities; the principle of national ownership with regard to assistance in the emergence of refugee crises; and the key role of voluntary return as a preferred option.

362. In the section entitled "Alignment with the Charter of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals and other transformative agendas", under the heading "Overall orientation", some delegations expressed their opposition to the alignment of the objective with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (referred to in para. 25.3), as not all Member States had supported its adoption. Some delegations proposed the deletion of references to the alignment of the Global Compact with the objectives of UNHCR. A delegation proposed either taking note of, rephrasing the related text or deleting it. Another delegation sought clarification as to why the text should be deleted. A delegation observed that the reference to "cooperation with States" in the implementation of mandates was reflected in the objective of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018–2019, previously approved by Member States, but had notably been omitted in the proposed programme plan for 2020. The same delegation sought clarification as to the omission of that aspect in 2020.

363. In the strategy and external factors for 2020, a delegation sought the views of UNHCR on the reform measures mentioned in paragraph 25.7, specifically the move to a decentralized model in 2019, and enquired about the current status of the reform

initiative, how it had been conducted and whether any consultations had been undertaken with Member States. The delegation stressed the importance of UNHCR maintaining dialogue with Member States in Geneva and expressed concern about the transfer of capacities to the regional offices, where not all Member States were present. In that regard, the delegation requested more information on those reform initiatives and as to whether Member States had been consulted and their inputs taken into account.

364. Concern was expressed by several delegations on the highlighted result in 2018 as to the use of the word “affirmation” in the context of the Global Compact, which was not a legally binding agreement, and proposed that the word be removed from the title, as well as from other related text, to avoid inconsistency and nuances. Another delegation stressed the expectation that the Compact would play a significant role in responding to the issue of refugees and supported its reflection in the proposed programme plan for 2020. Another delegation sought the views of UNHCR on the elements that, for some countries, made the Compact difficult to accept.

365. A delegation expressed support for the non-binding legal character of the Global Compact, as well as the voluntary nature of the contributions of countries in handling large refugee flows, while taking into account national realities and the capacities of different countries, as well as national policies and priorities.

366. A delegation pointed out an inconsistency between the English and the French versions in the text related to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, specifically, on the inclusion of the phrase “refugees and migrants” in the French version (“Dans la Déclaration de New York pour les réfugiés et les migrants adoptée en 2016”). The delegation expressed concern that the title of the Declaration mentioned both refugees and migrants, noting that there was a distinction between the two terms and a legal definition of the term “refugees”, which entailed a right to asylum, that was not applicable to migrants. In that regard, the delegation sought clarification as to whether the General Assembly had approved the title of the Declaration containing both refugees and migrants and, if not, proposed its amendment, to avoid any ambiguity. Delegations agreed to deliberate further on the matter in informal discussions, while reviewing the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution [73/151](#).

367. A delegation pointed out that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951, and the 1967 protocol thereto, were the main legal foundations of the international legal regime for the protection of refugees and therefore did not support the expansion of the scope and the inclusion of, for example, climate change, natural disasters and economic situations, as indicated in the Global Compact.

368. Some delegations expressed concern that the new programme plan format and presentation provided less information by presenting a single highlighted result, which limited the ability of Member States to exercise their oversight role over more than one programmatic area of work. That in turn, in the view of a delegation, increased the risk of leaving out other important and critical programmatic activities, including for example activities on refugee protections and emergency assistance, as well as the principle of country ownership, which should be reflected in the programme plan. A delegation expressed the opinion that the proposed programme budget should focus mainly on programmes and financing and not be turned into a report on the activities of a particular department. In that regard, the delegation expressed doubts about the need to include the parts on “Recent developments”, “Highlighted result for 2018” and “Most significant relative variances in deliverables”. Further, the delegation was of the view that evaluation of the activities was not the main purpose of the programme narrative. Another delegation, however, expressed support for the inclusion of “Recent developments”, opining that they

provided relevant and useful context. The same delegation further argued that the central point of the new budget format was to galvanize action towards results and a new culture that would allow staff to review past results, challenges and lessons learned. Another delegation expressed regret once again that, as observed in other programmes, not all paragraphs were numbered, which made it difficult to refer to paragraphs.

369. Regarding the highlighted planned result for 2020, reference was made to the performance measures, and clarification was sought on the challenges and progress made with respect to pledges and contributions announced by States at the Global Refugee Forum.

370. Clarification was also sought on the deliverables for the period 2018–2020 reflected in table 25.1, specifically regarding the lack of changes between the planned and actual volume of quantified deliverables. Further, clarification was sought on examples of technical materials delivered to its beneficiaries.

371. The view was expressed that the phrase “other persons of concern” in paragraph 25.8 was not sufficiently clear as to whom it related.

372. A delegation observed a gap between financial resources required in order for host countries to meet the needs of refugees responsibly and the real capacity of those countries to mobilize the resources required in order to meet those needs. In that regard the delegation expressed the view that the programme plan should reflect appropriate arrangements for adequate resources to be deployed to host countries to meet the needs of refugees, while another delegation expressed the view that future programme plans should put the focus on problems caused by refugees to host countries and how those problems should be tackled.

Programme 22

Palestine refugees

373. At its 14th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 22, Palestine refugees ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 26\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

374. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

375. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in implementing its programme, providing assistance and protection to 5.4 million refugees between Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, notwithstanding the difficulties faced on the ground and the shortfall in funding. A delegation underscored the importance of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

376. Appreciation was expressed for the important and stabilizing role of the programme in the Middle East, an area that had experienced serious upheaval in recent years. It was underscored that the Palestinian people increasingly depended on the international assistance that was received through the programme. Appreciation was expressed for the depoliticizing nature of the work of UNRWA in improving the

quality of life of and providing education services for the millions living in dangerous circumstances.

377. Several delegations referred to the recent developments described in paragraph 26.5, in particular that, in 2018, UNRWA had been confronted with the greatest financial challenge in its history owing to the abrupt loss of \$300 million, about a quarter of total essential funding requirements for the year. Appreciation was expressed for the Agency's efforts to overcome the crisis in the short term, and a call was made for the Agency to continue its fundraising efforts. A delegation announced that its Government was allocating \$10 million to UNRWA, in equal part over five years until 2021, saying that providing assistance and support to the Agency would help the Middle East peace process, a part of which must be to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

378. Noting that the lack of funding was a perennial problem, a delegation expressed the view that it might be beneficial for the programme to have a dedicated subprogramme with the objective of raising sufficient funds. Another delegation said that the funding challenges described in the programme appeared to contradict the inclusion, as an external factor, of the planning assumption described in paragraph 26.9 (h): "UNRWA is able to raise sufficient funds".

379. A delegation remarked that the deliverables for all five subprogrammes were focused on the provision of direct services and sought information on how those services would contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation suggested that it would have been beneficial to include a more developed narrative on the contribution of UNRWA to the achievement of the Goals.

380. A delegation representing the country that hosted the most Palestinians of all non-Arab countries expressed support for the programme and sought further details on what protection to refugees was provided by the programme under subprogramme 1, Palestine refugee rights under international law are protected and promoted.

381. With regard to subprogramme 3, School-aged children complete quality, equitable and inclusive basic education, it was noted that UNRWA pupils consistently outperformed their peers in public schools in national and international standardized tests. Reference was made to the challenge and response of the highlighted planned result for 2020, notably, inclusive education, where 37.7 per cent of the pupils identified as having a disability received support, which was below the target of 42 per cent for the biennium 2018–2019. In that regard, a delegation welcomed the focus on persons with disabilities.

382. A delegation, recalling that much had been said about the format of the budget documentation in reviews of other programmes, said that it would not elaborate further on the subject.

383. A delegation noted the proposed increase in resources for the programme and encouraged UNRWA to continue on its efficiency path so that it could be on a more stable footing in the future.

Programme 23

Humanitarian assistance

384. At its 17th meeting, on 13 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 23, Humanitarian assistance ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)). The Committee also had

before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

385. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

386. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work carried out by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in coordinating and providing protection and life-saving assistance to the millions of people displaced by conflict, natural disasters and other causes. It was noted that the Office played an indispensable role in ensuring that humanitarian aid reached those most in need in a principled, timely, coherent and coordinated manner.

387. Delegations expressed broad support for the proposed programme plan, which was described by a delegation as “uncontroversial” and strongly grounded in the mandate of the Office. Delegations underlined the importance of focusing on the most vulnerable, including women and children, as well as persons with disabilities.

388. A delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts outlined in the programme to implement the vision of the Secretary-General for reforming the United Nations and applauded the Office for its efforts to optimize its management structure to make it more transparent and accountable and to streamline its management processes and achieve greater operational efficiency by decentralizing decision-making and administrative services.

389. With regard to funding, a delegation noted that of the \$25 billion required for humanitarian assistance, only \$15 billion had been raised and, in view of that shortfall, enquired whether the Office could achieve its mandates and the objectives of its subprogrammes. In the light of the fact that humanitarian assistance to countries was not provided on a long-term basis, a delegation enquired about the Office’s strategies with States and development partners to implement and bolster support in post-crisis situations. The delegation enquired how the Office intended to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), which in its view was critical in preventing post-crisis instability.

390. With regard to subprogramme 1, Policy and analysis, a delegation observed that the references to hunger and conflict were not part of the mandate of the Office and questioned why those elements had been highlighted as a main result in 2018. In that regard, the delegation suggested the removal of the section related to armed conflict and food insecurity. Another delegation observed that it was expected that the subprogramme would have focused on policy and analysis; however, the information presented focused instead on humanitarian responses. The delegation also observed that there was no reference in the highlighted result in 2018 to the mandate of increased attention to conflict-induced food insecurity. In that regard, it sought clarification on the placement of that highlighted result under subprogramme 1. A delegation enquired about the extent of the Office’s plans to engage with other development actors such as the World Bank, which was highlighted as a planned result for 2020, to contribute to making progress in bridging the gap between humanitarian and development assistance at the global level. Clarification was sought regarding the legislative body that considered the report of the Secretary-General, which detailed the response of the United Nations, humanitarian and development actors to famine in parts of Unity State, South Sudan, and to the risk of famine in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen in 2017 referenced in the highlighted result in 2018.

391. With regard to subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response, a delegation commented that the highlighted planned result for 2020 under the subprogramme focused on funding for early action, whereas the overall strategy of the programme focused on dealing with long-lasting crises. The delegation was of the view that in planning the highlighted result, it would have been better to have a focus on the larger problem of long-lasting crises rather than a focused challenge on early action, which covered only a small part of humanitarian needs. That approach, the delegation stated, illustrated the limitations of having one highlighted result that did not allow an overview of the programme as a whole.

392. Another delegation enquired about the introduction of a new approach in the use of funds from the Central Emergency Response Fund, the objective of which was to provide funding for life-saving assistance. It stressed that while it was in favour of anticipatory funding, it had concerns about the reference to formalizing the new approach, which had not yet been agreed upon by Member States. In that regard, the delegation questioned why the new approach had not been presented to the Economic and Social Council for consideration. Another delegation expressed the view that the anticipatory approach in the Central Emergency Response Fund was part of the mandate of the Office.

393. With regard to subprogramme 3, Natural disaster risk reduction, a delegation was encouraged by the efforts of the programme in supporting countries in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular target (e), which was related to increasing the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. The delegation observed that in the section entitled “Result and evidence” under the heading “Highlighted planned result for 2020”, the number of countries expected to develop/improve national and local disaster risk reduction strategies would rise to 120, which was a huge leap from the 77 that were planned for 2019. In that regard, the delegation enquired about the Office’s strategy to reach that target. Another delegation sought clarification on how the Office would further leverage efforts in disaster risk reduction in cooperation with regional bodies and other stakeholders to prevent weather-related shocks from developing into humanitarian disasters.

394. Delegations expressed support for Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages). In expressing support for access to health care that promoted optimal health outcomes throughout the lifespan, a delegation, however, specified that his Government did not support the application of target 3.7 (ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes), as it related to abortion, comprehensive sex education and a diminished role of the family, and target 3.8 (achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all), as it related to any efforts to include abortion as an essential humanitarian assistance service. A number of delegations expressed support for all services towards the achievement of targets 3.7 and 3.8.

395. Several delegations expressed concern in relation to the new format of the report. A delegation was of the view that the previous format was more understandable, comprehensive and substantive. It noted that in the new format, a considerable amount of text was taken up by excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General as well as humanitarian bulletins of the Office and contained hardly any country-specific issues related to activities of the subprogrammes. The delegation expressed concern about the use of terminology on which no agreement had been reached. In that regard, it emphasized that the wording of the proposed programme

plan must be based on resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, specifically, Assembly resolutions 73/139, 72/218 and 72/131 and Council resolution 2018/11.

396. A delegation acknowledged the work by the Office in Zimbabwe and Malawi following the destruction resulting from Cyclone Idai. Regarding regional preparedness for early warning, the delegation enquired about the efforts of the Office to enhance the capacity of the region to respond better, noting that without funding, response mechanisms would be inoperable.

Programme 24

Global communications

397. At its 19th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 24, Global communications (A/74/6 (Sect. 28)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

398. The Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications introduced the programme and together with other representatives of the Department of Global Communications, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

399. Delegations expressed appreciation for the valuable and complex work of the programme and the efforts made to promote the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. A delegation remarked on the challenge faced by the Department in a world with an abundance of information, including fake news.

400. Several delegations emphasized the importance of multilingualism and, in that regard, expressed the view that the Department must ensure equal treatment for all of the official languages and that content and tools be available for all of them. A delegation, while acknowledging that it was not easy to achieve multilingualism, expressed the view that it was necessary to develop a culture for multiculturalism across all areas of the work of the Organization. As an illustration, the delegation drew attention to the gift shop at Headquarters and expressed regret that souvenirs and books were available in only one language, despite the fact that it received visitors from all over the world. The delegation also expressed the view that the European Union faced similar challenges but was more successful and respectful of multilingualism, as evidenced, for instance, by the use of "<https://www.icc-cpi.int/>" as the URL for the International Criminal Court, demonstrating that equal value was given to the English and French acronyms.

401. A delegation referred to the e-deleGATE platform, recalling that the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management had, in the context of the formal meeting on programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, indicated that e-deleGATE did not serve to disseminate documents in the official languages and expressed the view that, as e-deleGATE was the portal for delegates, it would be useful to add that function. The same delegation expressed regret that the platform allowed only a fixed number of connections at the same time and indicated that it had often had problems accessing it from outside the United States of America. The same delegation further expressed the view that it might be more useful for e-deleGATE to be managed by the entity responsible for servicing meetings and conferences. The Committee was

advised that, after the adjournment of the formal meeting, information would be provided to clarify the purpose, technical capability and management of e-deleGATE.

402. Reference was made to paragraph 28.10, which indicated that a self-evaluation entitled “gender evaluation of the work of the Department of Public Information” would guide the programme plan in 2020. In that regard, a delegation expressed the wish to see just as much enthusiasm when it came to the concept of equitable geographical representation, to enable results similar to those achieved in the area of gender parity.

403. With regard to subprogramme 1, Strategic communications services, delegations commended the work of the subprogramme in relation to work by the United Nations information centres in engaging with government entities and searching for opportunities for mutual collaboration. Delegations sought clarification on the role of the centres in relation to country teams and the resident coordinator system in the context of the reform of the United Nations development system. A delegation remarked on the good relationship in particular between Japan and the United Nations information centre in that country and the willingness to maintain and develop that relationship further. Another delegation remarked on the good work of the programme in Buenos Aires.

404. A delegation welcomed the forward-looking nature of the document, as evidenced by references made therein to a chatbot or the use of artificial intelligence in the highlighted planned result for 2020 under subprogramme 1. In that regard, a question was raised as to how subprogramme 1 navigated and assessed the multiple social media platforms available and how it selected which platforms the United Nations was using to communicate with the broad and diverse audience that used and adopted distinct social media platforms depending on various factors, including social, cultural and local preferences. Information was sought on what other plans the Department had to reach younger audiences, including, for example, mangas or cartoons.

405. Another delegation welcomed the fresh content of the document, drawing attention in particular to the information and picture under subprogramme 2, News services, related to the partnership agreement negotiated by the Department and an Asian airline which had painted its new aircraft in United Nations blue, with the distinctive icons of the Sustainable Development Goals and the slogan “in support of the UN” painted across the fuselage.

406. Further, under the same subprogramme, delegations sought clarification regarding the editorial guidelines behind the content presented in the language versions of the news portals and expressed the view that the criteria for the selection of the content was not clear and that it resulted in the promotion of different content in different languages. The example provided was that, in the Spanish news section, a feature story related to the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, while the English website mentioned the visit of Angelina Jolie to Venezuelan refugees in Colombia. While acknowledging the appeal of someone like Angelina Jolie for the general public, the delegation queried whether the Department did not think that the work of the High Commissioner was more important.

407. Furthermore, delegations underscored that subprogramme 2 should continue its efforts to achieve parity in the content made available in the six official languages and requested that the subprogramme provide disaggregated data on the use of websites, by language. A delegation expressed the view that that information might be useful to identify problems with regard to language parity and would help to identify where to allocate appropriate financial and human resources. Another delegation remarked that it supported the publication of documents and content in the

six official languages, when necessary, and encouraged analysis of the number of users in the languages to make sure that resources were not being directed into services that were not needed.

408. The importance of providing adequate conditions for the media was expressed and, in that context, a delegation expressed the strongest concern at a decision by the Department to remove the microphones from the media stakeout area owing to lack of funding. Furthermore, Member States had been informed that access to the video recordings of the statements of the participants of the Security Council meetings would be available only live or upon request, which did not correspond to the task of providing information services to one of the key United Nations bodies. In that regard, the delegation stressed the need to report regularly to Member States on reform activities, indicating the specific measures taken and action plans for the near future, as reform could not be implemented in a non-transparent manner.

409. A delegation expressed serious concern at the decision by the Department to end the posting of metadata in all of the official languages to the webcast system with the explanation that the decision had been made owing to cross-cutting budget cuts. That explanation, in the view of the delegation, was not convincing, as the proposed budget for 2020 was higher than the previous one, including as a result of the creation of posts in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [73/162](#) on the human rights treaty body system and [72/249](#) on the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. It seemed, as the delegation further remarked, that the decision was more reflective of priorities of the Department, as further evidenced by the transfer of posts to activities related to the strengthening of the multilingualism of social networks, the result of which was a paradoxical situation whereby content existed in all of the official languages but could not be found, as the search engine provided results only in English and thus left a large part of the audience deprived of content.

410. On the topic of engagement with younger audiences, a delegation sought clarification of the plans to redesign the United Nations website. In that context, interest was shown regarding the deployment of the new website, and a question was asked as to whether the transition to the new website would be incremental, through a phased approach, or whether the new website would be fully deployed at once.

411. Regarding subprogramme 3, Outreach and knowledge services, questions were raised regarding the strategy of the subprogramme in trying to incorporate regional visions such as the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, in addition to the global agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, a delegation sought information about the activities planned by the subprogramme in the context of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

412. A number of delegations noted that the objective for each subprogramme was identical, namely to achieve an informed understanding of the work, principles and purposes of the United Nations. In that regard, a delegation expressed regret that, with the move to the new programme plan format, useful information had been left out, including details on the programme narrative of each subprogramme which helped to distinguish the three subprogrammes. Further details were therefore sought on the different areas of work of each subprogramme.

Programme 25

Management and support services

413. At its 21st and 22nd meetings, on 17 and 18 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 25, Management and support services ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 29A\)](#), [A/74/6 \(Sect. 29B\)](#), [A/74/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#), [A/74/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#), [A/74/6 \(Sect. 29F\)](#) and [A/74/6 \(Sect. 29G\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

414. The Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller, in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Assistant Secretary-General/Chief Information Technology Officer in the Office of Information and Communications Technology and other representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

415. Appreciation was expressed for the critical role that the programme played in providing crucial services in support of the delivery of the programme of work of the Organization. Delegations encouraged efforts to continue to increase accountability and effectiveness in the management of resources in terms of finance and human resources, information and communications technology (ICT) and support services, including procurement, providing support to intergovernmental processes, ensuring funding for the programmes approved and assisting in their implementation. Delegations voiced support for the implementation of management reform and sought feedback on the impact thereof, including on whether the reform initiative facilitated cooperation within the Secretariat. A delegation congratulated the Secretariat on presenting the programme of work for the first time after the departmental reforms. A delegation emphasized the need for fairness, integrity and transparency in procurement and stated that international competition and best value for money were in the best interests of the Organization.

416. With regard to the presentation of deliverables, a delegation noted the difficulty in defining deliverables, quantifying services and placing value on products and services for which there was no market. Clarification was sought regarding the reasons for the predominance of non-quantified deliverables for subprogrammes under the programme in comparison with other programmes.

417. A delegation expressed regret that, with the new format, essential information had been lost and could be found only in the supplementary information, which was not part of the approved document. Instead, the document contained information that was contentious and not particularly relevant, such as the artificial alignment with the Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, it was noted that some programmes had selected specific Goals while others had selected all of them, which could lead to a situation in which uninformed readers would be under the impression that some programmes did more for the attainment of the Goals than others. The same delegation reiterated the view that there were inconsistencies in the programme with regard to the selection of the identified results and stressed the need for consistency across all programme narratives.

418. Another delegation stated that the narrative was clear and understandable, in particular for newcomers to the budget system, and underlined the importance of the supplementary information provided, noting that all relevant information was

provided therein and stressing that it was preferable not to overload the published document with details, such as lists of relevant mandates. In that regard, the delegation suggested that future documents could contain specific references to the supplementary information and the detailed information contained therein.

419. A delegation requested a return to the previous methodology and presentation of programme plans and budgets to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#) on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations. Another delegation reiterated the view that the new format did not allow for the presentation of a complete programme narrative, which created challenges for the Committee's oversight and consideration. Furthermore, it was suggested that the pictures and stories presented were not appropriate for a technical document and might be better suited to other modes of delivery of programmatic information, such as through a website, [results.un.org](#), which was mentioned as a planned result for 2020 for the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, under component 3, Programme planning and budgeting, of subprogramme 2, Programme planning, finance and budget. It was also suggested that, for programmes with significant changes in their structure, the new format made it difficult to clearly identify the changes.

420. A delegation indicated that it was important to distinguish between deficiencies in format and presentation and particular applications of the format. In that regard, issues resulting from a particular application of the new format in a specific subprogramme should not be interpreted as insurmountable flaws in the format itself. Another delegation commented on the link between the programme plan and the budget and referred to the evolution of the methodology over time, which required corresponding adjustments in mindset.

421. It was asked why the staffing policies of the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Information and Communications Technology did not appear to take geographical balance into account. Some delegations said that insufficient attention had been paid to geographical representation, in particular in comparison with the attention given to gender parity. A delegation stated that, of the three offices away from Headquarters, only the United Nations Office at Vienna had demonstrated significant progress in that regard, requesting the Geneva and Nairobi portions of the programmes to intensify their efforts to achieve more equitable geographical representation. Furthermore, an updated list of the nationalities of all staff in the Professional and higher categories, from the Under-Secretary-General to the P-1 grades, was requested. Another delegation recalled the mandate of the Committee and suggested that the information be shared bilaterally with the delegation, for information only, since the Committee was not analysing resources. Another delegation noted that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter, the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff should be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Another delegation said that there was a need to consider various factors, including merit, geographical representation and gender parity, but indicated that others, such as the disproportionate number of applicants across gender or nationality, contributed to imbalances and added complexity to the matter.

422. Delegations acknowledged the progress made in the area of recruitment, in particular at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, where the recruitment time had been reduced to 110 days. In that connection, it was asked why, overall, recruitment took so long in the Organization, and the possibility of the existence of external factors was raised, as were questions on any accountability measures being taken to improve and expedite the recruitment process.

423. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the efforts being made by the three offices away from Headquarters in harnessing and leveraging technology to manage resources effectively and efficiently, including by using videoconferencing in Vienna, making the working environment accessible anytime from anywhere in Nairobi and using artificial and virtual intelligence in Geneva.

424. While acknowledging that progress reports would be submitted to the Fifth Committee during the main part of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, delegations requested updates on the construction projects under way in Geneva and Nairobi. A delegation sought information on the involvement and support of the host countries and on how lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of such projects were being shared among the offices.

425. Appreciation was expressed to the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance for its vital work in turning the vision of the Secretary-General to shift the management paradigm into a reality, in making the Organization more accountable, people-focused and decentralized and in fostering change in everyone. The launch of delegation of authority was noted, and appreciation was expressed for the efforts to ensure that heads of department were prepared to undertake the new functions. Furthermore, the system-wide commitment to gender parity was welcomed.

426. Delegations sought clarification on the work being done towards the equitable geographical representation of Member States in the staff composition of the Secretariat and on the definition of the term “regional diversity” and its relationship with geographical representation. A question was raised on the regions in which the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance was working to increase diversity, as well as on the map presented in the proposed programme budget under the heading “Highlighted result in 2018” for component 2, Strategic planning and staffing, of subprogramme 3, Human resources management, detailing the number of people who sat the test in 2018 for the young professionals programme.

427. Regarding component 1, Enterprise resource planning project, of subprogramme 1, Enterprise resource planning project, services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, management services, and management evaluation component of the administration of justice, clarification was sought regarding the need to continue to fund the Umoja project in 2020. Recalling Assembly resolution [73/279 A](#), in which it was noted that the deployment of all Umoja Extension 2 solutions was to be completed by the end of 2019, a delegation said that Member States had exceptionally agreed to the extension and additional funding of the project for 2019 on the premise that the project would be completed in that year. In that regard, the delegation requested a written explanation of how the assessed and extrabudgetary contribution detailed in the report would be used. Interest was shown in the timing of the submission to the Assembly of a report indicating the benefits of Umoja and related lessons learned from the roll-out of the project in the Secretariat. Furthermore, it was asked why the reported number of Umoja users, namely 46,500, exceeded the number of Secretariat staff, as indicated in the highlighted planned result for 2020.

428. Additional information was sought on the newly established subprogramme 4, Business transformation and accountability, which a delegation considered to be the most crucial activity carried out by the Secretariat in transforming management and ensuring that the Organization remained fully accountable. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020, further information was sought on the performance measure for 2020 under which an evidence-based system would be in place to support informed decision-making.

429. With regard to the work of the Department of Operational Support, comments were made by a delegation that a map in the annex on programme performance for 2018 misrepresented the borders of that delegation's country. Another delegation expressed disagreement with that statement, indicating that the illegal annexation of territory by that Member State was not recognized and was a violation of a number of international commitments of the Member State, including the Charter, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, signed in 1997. Another delegation urged members of the Committee to focus on its mandate and not go beyond it.

430. In respect of the performance measures for 2020 under component 1, Human resources support, of subprogramme 1, Support operations, it was asked how the Secretariat would collect feedback from departments and offices to measure its target of achieving improved and simplified human resources processes.

431. Regarding the performance measures for 2019 under component 3, Health-care management and occupational safety and health, it was stated that, although the performance measures included training programmes and activities that were quantifiable, the deliverables for 2020 indicated only non-quantified deliverables and missed an opportunity to provide a link to the quantifiable performance measures.

432. Referring to component 2, Uniformed capabilities support, of subprogramme 2, Supply chain management, appreciation was expressed for the single entry point for troop- and police-contributing countries and United Nations peacekeepers. In that regard, a delegation stated that many activities of the Department of Operational Support were rather business oriented, such as supply chain management, but that the interaction with troop- and police-contributing countries included a strong political dimension and, in that regard, asked how, within the programme, that peculiarity of the mandate was addressed.

433. In respect of the highlighted planned result for 2020 under subprogramme 4, Administration, New York, views were expressed on whether the quoted emotional comment of a staff member was representative of the overall staff reaction to the flexible workplace project. It was asked how the Secretariat chose the quotations and narratives to include in its reports, how it evaluated the satisfaction of its staff for such projects as the flexible workplace and Umoja, and what the results had been.

434. Regarding the work of the Office of Information and Communications Technology, delegations expressed appreciation for the significant progress in the revitalization of ICT capabilities. It was noted that the Office was one of the three entities that had undergone the most far-reaching reform in recent years, and questions were raised regarding the dual reporting line to the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support. Clarification was sought on whether any difficulties were envisaged and whether that arrangement was temporary.

435. Appreciation was also expressed to the Office for its work in supporting the intergovernmental bodies and providing services to other parts of the Secretariat.

436. In reference to the strategy on technology and innovation, it was noted that Umoja, a key multi-year programme, would be a crucial element in pursuing the ICT strategy of the Secretariat. In that context, a delegation asked why no guidance had been given in that area.

437. Clarification was also sought regarding the support provided by the Office to developing countries and the difficulties encountered, given the existing gaps.

438. With regard to subprogramme 1, Strategy and technology innovation, in particular the performance measure for 2020 on the adoption by client departments of new policies and procedures and the adoption by client departments and Member States of new technology solutions, a delegation expressed regret that no additional information had been provided, given that the mere adoption of new policies did not reflect on the quality of work performance. The same applied to subprogramme 2, Operations support, and the related measure of increased customer satisfaction, since no further information had been provided.

439. Regarding Administration, Geneva, notably subprogramme 1, Programme planning, finance and budget, a delegation congratulated the United Nations Office at Geneva for shifting the focus from transactional and process-driven tasks to business insight, decision support, enhanced coordination and risk, and welcomed the expected improvement in the accuracy of the accounts and financial reporting. Appreciation was expressed for the development of new tools for service delivery, as referred to in paragraph 29.E.3.

440. A delegation expressed appreciation to the Office for its focus on streamlining and harmonization by co-locating client services, which helped to reduce the administrative burden and allowed for greater focus on the implementation of mandates.

441. Appreciation was expressed for the progress made towards gender parity, in particular selection decisions in favour of female candidates. A delegation welcomed the training of staff in gender parity and the empowerment of women and, with regard to sexual harassment, encouraged the Office to continue to find ways to make improvements, including by reducing the time taken to investigate sexual harassment allegations and improving guidance on the investigation of cases.

442. It was noted that the strategic heritage plan was one of the largest construction projects currently being undertaken for the United Nations, and it was asked whether workspace utilization and staff well-being had been considered when moving to the new building, and whether the move would occur within the planned time frame.

443. Information was requested on the challenges of space optimization and on the expected undertakings for the new building information modelling system mentioned under the heading “Highlighted planned result for 2020” under subprogramme 3, Support services.

444. A delegation referred to subprogramme 4, Information and communications technology operations, and the highlighted planned result for 2020, including the challenge and response, and requested additional information on the use of machine learning for its own user-support process and how it would enable improved performance.

445. With regard to Administration, Vienna, a delegation welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations Office at Vienna in the implementation of the performance management system based on the 360-degree feedback approach and expressed the expectation that it would lead to better performance, in particular when combined with additional training for managers.

446. A delegation acknowledged the progress made in attaining gender parity, noted the launch of training modules on unconscious bias and suggested that the Office look further into adding the subject of sexual harassment to the training module.

447. A delegation commended the Office on the flexible working arrangements and the impact of videoconferencing facilities, in particular in reducing travel costs.

448. With regard to Administration, Nairobi, a delegation welcomed the support of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the work of the United Nations resident coordinator system and the reform of the United Nations development system.

449. A delegation welcomed the effort being made by the Office to leverage the common services governance framework for all United Nations organizations operating in or from Kenya in support of United Nations common business operations, to leverage best practices, eliminate duplication and overlap and generate efficiencies, synergies and coherence.

450. A delegation asked what action had been taken to address the low rate of compliance with the advance purchase policy.

Programme 26

Internal oversight

451. At its 13th meeting, on 11 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 26, Internal oversight ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 30\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

452. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

453. Support was expressed for the work of OIOS, with an emphasis on the need for the successful implementation of management reform initiative, in particular in the area of investigation. Delegations also emphasized the need for OIOS to pay attention to the implementation of the reform initiative. Clarification was sought regarding the approach that OIOS would take regarding the evaluation of the reform initiative and how much time it would need to complete the report. Separately, regarding evaluation activities, reference was made to paragraphs 30.9 to 30.11 on self-evaluation, and clarification was sought as to who performed external evaluations of OIOS.

454. Delegations expressed their full support for a work environment that was free from all forms of harassment and for the implementation of a victim-centred approach that recognized the balance between accountability and confidentiality. In that regard, a delegation noted that the focus of OIOS investigations had shifted to sexual harassment, and expressed the view that the Office should continue to carry out its important work with respect to investigating fraud, the possible violation of regulations and rules, the mismanagement of United Nations resources and the abuse of authority, as part of the programme.

455. Referring to a previous audit report of OIOS on the comprehensive audit of the governance structure and related processes of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board ([A/73/341](#)), a delegation recalled that the Board had not accepted several of the recommendations of OIOS, the report had not been balanced or helpful and the substance of the issues raised by OIOS in the report had gone beyond the scope of its mandate and purview. The delegation further indicated that it was expected that, in the future, OIOS would not act in such a manner, which had cast a negative light on its staff. On the same subject, another delegation noted the difficulty of the report for the Pension Board and, while the delegation was not normally involved in the work of OIOS, it stressed the importance of not only the methodology but also the perception of impartiality. The delegation noted the lack of participation of OIOS in

the meeting of the Board regarding the report and questioned the artificial deadline set by OIOS for members of the Board to respond to the comments contained in the draft report in advance of the Board's holding its scheduled session.

456. On the challenges faced by OIOS in relation to the investigation of sexual harassment, a delegation noted the lack of a dedicated capacity to investigate sexual harassment complaints and emphasized the need for investigators with experience in investigating sexual harassment cases, and in that regard sought clarification on the status of the recruitment of such capacity.

457. Delegations were concerned that the emphasis placed on gender did not appear to capture the need for the equitable geographical representation of Member States. A question was raised regarding the representation of developing countries, in particular at the P-5 level and above. A delegation remarked that the matter was a human resources issue and not programme related and therefore was not within the remit of the Committee. Another delegation was of the view that if geographical representation was not within the purview of the Committee then gender-related issues should equally be excluded.

458. A delegation noted the need to return to the previous format for the presentation of the budget document. Furthermore, on the presentation of non-quantified deliverables, a delegation requested the clarification of and clarity on the indicators and other missing elements of the deliverables, stressing the need to return to the previously agreed format in the absence of such information.

459. Regarding subprogramme 1, Internal audit, questions were raised concerning the planned result for 2020, namely, a strengthened second line of defence in the Organization in the context of the various reform initiatives of the Secretary-General. Clarification was sought in particular on the term "second line of defence" and how it related to the reform initiative.

460. Regarding subprogramme 2, Inspection and evaluation, clarification was sought regarding the planned result for 2020, namely, a focused evaluation for improved decision-making on United Nations reform and matters related to the Sustainable Development Goals, including the challenge and response associated with the plan of OIOS to produce evaluation reports focusing on the new Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the new Development Coordination Office and the resident coordinator system. Delegations appreciated the timing of the evaluation and looked forward to receiving the reports on those entities.

461. In the context of subprogramme 3, Investigations, a delegation expressed its support for a victim-centred approach. Clarification was sought on the fast-tracked and more responsive procedure to deal with complaints, reflected in the highlighted planned result for 2020 under the heading "Challenge and response". Furthermore, information was sought on how the result and evidence and the deliverables contributed to increased awareness of responses to sexual exploitation and abuse. A question was also raised as to how awareness would be measured and if there were any quantified deliverables that could be presented. A delegation sought clarification on the average amount of time needed to complete an investigation, and expressed the opinion that more needed to be done.

Programme 27

Jointly financed activities

462. At its 4th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 27, Jointly financed activities ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 31\)](#)). The Committee also

had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

463. The Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Secretary of CEB and Director of the CEB secretariat and a representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

464. Support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme, in particular for the need to preserve consistency and unity within the United Nations system.

465. As regards the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), several delegations acknowledged the wide range of work that had been undertaken by the Commission, as reflected in the programme performance information, and welcomed its intention to rationalize the use of resources and reduce its carbon footprint in response to the 2030 Agenda, in particular through a reduction in the number of publications. Clarification was sought as to whether the reduced number of publications would have an impact on the publication of mandated materials. In that regard, a delegation requested that a table be produced outlining the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement in order to clarify how the results would be achieved.

466. The essential role played by ICSC in regulating and coordinating the conditions of service across the United Nations system was highlighted, in particular the work of the Commission in relation to the strengthening of the implementation of the common system compensation package. An update was requested on the work conducted in that regard.

467. A delegation expressed satisfaction with the planned increase in the number of seminars and training events organized by ICSC, as that would contribute to a better understanding by the staff of the recommendations made by the Commission. The delegation also noted improvements made to the website of ICSC, but pointed out that more needed to be done to improve communications by ICSC on any new recommendations at an earlier stage.

468. In its comments on the highlighted result in 2018, a delegation pointed to the difficulties encountered in making references to paragraphs that were not numbered. The delegation noted that, under the heading “Result and evidence”, it was clear that the result was an overall understanding of the compensation package. The delegation noted, however, that the highlighted result was less evident owing to the way in which the narrative was formulated. The delegation requested further information as to how ICSC intended to achieve the full and consistent implementation of the common system package across the entities of the United Nations and asked whether there had been resistance to its implementation by any entity.

469. As regards the Joint Inspection Unit, several delegations recognized the role of the Unit as the only body that carried out system-wide oversight reviews and stressed that all system-wide recommendations must be carefully considered by the relevant leadership bodies. A delegation welcomed the Unit’s efforts to prioritize the production of higher-quality reports.

470. Some delegations expressed regret that the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was not acting in accordance with the recommendations of the Unit and sought further information on the matter. A delegation stated that it was not convinced by the argument that UPU, which was created long before the United Nations and therefore

not subject to the regulations governing the Unit, was exempt from the recommendations.

471. Regarding CEB, several delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Board and its role in ensuring consistency in and the coordination of the policies and practices of the United Nations system. A delegation noted the range of initiatives that were undertaken by the CEB task force on addressing sexual harassment within the organizations of the United Nations system and expressed the hope that the matter would remain a priority in the year ahead.

472. Emphasizing that CEB acted on General Assembly mandates, a delegation drew attention to the highlighted result in 2018, which contained a reference to the existence of an organizational culture of impunity and mistrust that needed to be changed with urgency and determination. The delegation asked how that conclusion had been drawn and whether the question had been put to the Assembly for its consideration and, if that had not been the case, why not. Questions were raised concerning the results of the global staff survey and how staff members viewed the culture and behaved in cases of sexual harassment. Clarification was sought on the data behind the conclusion, and the question of whether the measures put forth had been implemented and accepted by staff members was raised. Given that, as stated in the proposed programme plan, the United Nations had a clear policy for investigating sexual harassment fairly and confidentially, the delegation also questioned the reasons for changing something that was working well. Furthermore, the delegation questioned the role and legal status of the CEB task force on addressing sexual harassment. As regards the result of the work of the task force, which included the development of a uniform definition of sexual harassment, a set of common principles for sexual harassment policies and a United Nations system model policy on sexual harassment, the delegation asked whether an expert legal analysis had been carried out as part of the development of the uniform definition. The delegation asked whether the problem really existed or whether the issue had been brought up as a result of current trends.

473. A delegation was of the view that the mention of the existence of a culture of impunity was neither inappropriate nor the result of a trend, but rather a reflection of a growing recognition that the culture of impunity was a worldwide problem and a common manifestation in many large organizations. In that regard, the delegation stressed that it was important to resist the temptation to blame the victims and instead to listen to them and to work towards alleviating the problem.

474. Regarding the matter of reporting on sexual harassment, a delegation said that, in the highlighted result in 2018, it was not evident whether a plan had been made to develop a metric to quantify the scale of incidents, and clarification was sought as to whether, in the shift from metrics to deliverables, certain aspects had been omitted. A question was raised as to whether the Organization was ready to track performance and whether systems for that purpose were in place.

475. On the issue of the format of the programme plans, several delegations expressed support for the range of information presented and emphasized the need to increase transparency. Several others voiced concern regarding the presentation of the programmes, sought clarification of the legal basis for the changes made to the format and highlighted inconsistencies between result narratives, performance measures and presentations of evidence and deliverables. A delegation requested the development of a table that contained objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

476. A delegation noted that, while there was some consistency in the presentation of the programmes, such as an expressed alignment with the 2030 Agenda, it was difficult to discern the overall view of the expected goals for 2020 of the entities of

the Secretariat. That sentiment was echoed by several delegations. While recognizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda, the same delegation said that there was insufficient information presented regarding specific mandates from the 2030 Agenda or other intergovernmental mandates, and that the Sustainable Development Goals were not embodied in Article 1 of the Charter. In that regard, the delegation asked whether there was an intergovernmental mandate that called for the 2030 Agenda to be included in all programme plans.

477. Several delegations stated that the programme plans should be consistent and understandable. One asked whether the new presentation of the programmes had been prepared on the basis of the principles of results-based budgeting, which included organizational objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. The view was expressed that the basis for that approach entailed having a consistent narrative and a consistent programme plan, which included results-based elements.

478. Several delegations called for clarity on terminology. One sought clarification on the classification of the words “result” and “deliverable”, which, in its view, referred to different levels in the programming process. It was further noted that there were several deliverables but only one result highlighted for 2020, and the rest were not included in the plans presented. While several delegations recognized that there had been a decision to change aspects of the format, it was pointed out that some aspects had not been clearly defined by the General Assembly. In that regard, a delegation stated that the Committee would have to decide on and make recommendations to the Assembly on how to move forward. In response to the clarification provided by the Secretariat that programme managers had been given complete freedom in terms of how to highlight an expected result, the delegation expressed interest in learning what the Secretariat had requested programme managers to include in every part of the new format.

479. Regarding other issues related to the format, several delegations insisted on paragraph numbers. One said that it would be useful if the Committee were provided with more information on the structure of the programme plans, which would help in understanding the shift to the highlighted results, which were quantifiable in some cases but not in others. Several delegations echoed the need for more information on the structure and format and requested that the information be provided in writing.

480. A number of delegations welcomed the clarification provided that all results and deliverables would be recorded in the enterprise resource planning system.

Programme 28

Safety and security

481. At its 14th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee considered the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 of programme 28, Safety and security ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

482. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

483. Delegations expressed their appreciation and strong support for the work of the Department of Safety and Security in providing security and protection to United Nations personnel, who often worked in the most difficult and dangerous situations,

and encouraged the Department to continue its efforts in that regard. A delegation underscored the importance of General Assembly resolution [73/137](#), on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, while another welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through the United Nations system road safety strategy. A delegation recalled that, in the relevant resolutions on safety on security, it was specified that activities of the Department should be limited to United Nations personnel only and that any broadening of the concept would need to be discussed by Member States.

484. Referencing the ongoing reform of the Department, clarification was sought of the statement in paragraph 34.7 that additional reforms would require a review of the security structures of the United Nations security management system. A delegation further sought clarification of the envisaged timeline for the second stage of reforms, as described in the same paragraph. Information was also sought as to whether the ongoing reform of the resident coordinator system had had any impact on the Department.

485. Recalling paragraphs 34.7 and 34.8, in which it was stated that the ongoing reform of the Department had led to a new organizational structure under subprogramme 3, Specialized operational support, clarification was sought as to the impact of the reform initiative on the other two subprogrammes. A delegation further pointed out that the objectives in subprogrammes 2, Regional field operations, and 3 had changed compared with the previous programme plan and enquired as to whether those changes related to the reform initiative.

486. A delegation, recalling paragraph 34.11, welcomed that the Department had integrated a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, and sought further information on how the Department had applied that strategy operationally and strategically. Information was sought as to how the Department had addressed the prevention of sexual violence, both strategically as well as in the overall organizational culture.

487. Support was expressed for the work carried out under subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, as well as the information that no incidents had been reported with regard to activities covering special events or providing access to participants. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020 on the integration of accreditation and badging of visitors and participants in special events, information was sought regarding the statement that, as part of the development of Umoja Extension 2, the subprogramme would implement changes in the process of accrediting and badging visitors and participants in special events held both on United Nations premises and externally. The view was expressed that it was of vital importance not to have glitches in the badging system and that any changes should expedite and simplify the accreditation of visitors and participants.

488. A delegation, while expressing appreciation for improvements made to expedite accreditation and badging, emphasized that ease of movement within United Nations premises was equally important, in particular for persons with disabilities. In that regard, the view was expressed that the metal barriers at ECA were outdated and created accessibility challenges for persons with disabilities and that, in modernizing the ECA compound, due attention should be given to persons with disabilities. The delegation further recalled the standardized access control project (PACT I and PACT II)² and enquired as to whether it had been implemented at ECA. A delegation

² The first phase was intended to ensure compliance with Headquarters minimum operating security standards for perimeter protection and electronic access control. The second phase is designed to ensure compliance with those standards with regard to defined layers of security within the perimeter (see [A/64/532](#), para. 8).

also sought clarification as to whether information technology in the field would be helpful and stated that, if used, it should be cutting-edge.

489. The importance of having constructive cooperation with the host country for any new rules and practices was also emphasized. Delegations pointed out that advance consultations with countries should be made to ensure a robust plan for evacuation, crisis management and emergency services. Concern was expressed in relation to the varying procedures for gaining access to different United Nations buildings in New York and the lack of communication of changes in security procedures, relating, for example, to gate closures and parking availability, which were either not properly disseminated or were announced with insufficient notice.

490. A delegation recalled that, on 10 June, a helicopter had crashed into a building in Midtown Manhattan and enquired as to what evacuation procedures were in place in the event that a similar event occurred at United Nations Headquarters. In the same context, a question was raised on whether technological innovations would be helpful, including to allow instant communication and broadcasting in cooperation with staff members and other partners.

491. A number of delegations questioned the alignment of the programme with the 2030 Agenda in view of the fact that all of the Sustainable Development Goals had been selected. A delegation enquired as to whether it had been mandatory for the Department to identify those Goals it aligned with, or whether it had been given the option not to align its work with the Goals.

B. Evaluation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives

492. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives ([A/74/67](#) and [A/74/67/Corr.1](#)).

493. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

494. Several delegations welcomed the work of OIOS in producing the report and emphasized its importance in the context of the ongoing reform of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, delegations requested the Secretary-General not only to deliver on mandates, but also to improve the quality of work and learn from the evaluations conducted.

495. A delegation noted that OIOS had recognized the web-based Unite Evaluation tool developed by the United Nations on Office Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as a best practice and asked why OIOS had not specifically recommended that it be used by other Secretariat entities.

496. A delegation also noted that paragraph 15 of the report contained references to entities of which no evaluations had been undertaken, despite a budget having been allocated for that purpose, and specifically questioned the inclusion of the United

Nations Office at Nairobi, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

497. A delegation noted the different uses of evaluations depicted in figure XI of the report, notably 57 per cent for reporting to donors and 53 per cent for reporting to intergovernmental bodies, and asked why that was the case, given that delegations expected to see a higher percentage of reporting directed to intergovernmental bodies than to donors. Further elaboration was also requested in reference to the difference in the way in which OIOS evaluated entities that were financed mainly from the regular budget and those that were financed mainly through extrabudgetary funds.

498. A delegation welcomed the manner in which OIOS had considered human rights and gender and expressed satisfaction that several entities had been recognized in the report for increasing their integration of those areas, although there was recognition that further work needed to be done. A delegation noted that the report included findings on the lack of human rights and gender integration in many evaluation reports and that other notable shortcomings in the Secretariat's evaluation function had been identified. The delegation expressed its readiness to work constructively on the issue in the hope of increasing the number of evaluations and the quality of the delivery of the mandate. Clarification was sought in reference to the first recommendation (para. 55 (b)), on improving evaluation report quality on gender and human rights dimensions through appropriate training and guidance, specifically whether development dimensions would also be included to ensure a balance between the three pillars of the United Nations.

499. The delegation sought clarification of the opinion of some entities, as reflected in paragraphs 25 and 46 of the report, that audits and surveys were sufficiently fulfilling their respective evaluation needs and that evaluations were redundant in view of the oversight already received from audit functions. The delegation asked whether OIOS agreed with that perspective considering that both surveys and audits differed from evaluations.

500. With regard to the newly established Evaluation Section of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, clarification was sought as to its role and functions since becoming operational, particularly in developing guidance, conducting training and carrying out the overall coordination of evaluation activities.

501. Clarification was sought regarding a suggestion made by UNODC in its management response, notably the possibility of strengthening the methodology for assessing evaluation reports and whether OIOS could have approached the issue differently.

502. Regarding the OIOS workplan, while acknowledging that all evaluations were important, a delegation expressed particular interest in the planned triennial review of ECE, the thematic evaluation of system-wide coordination of and support for the Sustainable Development Goals and the evaluation of the resident coordinator system, the latter of which was expected to provide the Committee with information on the effectiveness of the reorganization of the system.

503. A delegation indicated that, in general, it had no objection to the OIOS proposal that the Committee consider its evaluations on an annual basis (paras. 60–61), while keeping in mind the annual budget process and the need to balance the workload of the Committee and ensure that the Committee remained able to fulfil its mandate effectively. Specifically, with regard to paragraph 64 of the report regarding the OIOS evaluation workplan that the Committee might consider in its future sessions, a delegation asked whether OIOS would be conducting only three evaluations per year from the proposed list going forward, if selected by the Committee. The delegation

further asked whether other reviews, thematic evaluations and inspections would also be conducted as planned.

504. Clarification was sought regarding the comment by UN-Women in its management response on the intended meaning of “to be made aware of the implications of the proposal to the Committee for Programme and Coordination in regard to evaluation requests”. A delegation acknowledged that the use of inspections to assess the evaluation functions of entities was a useful way of identifying the strength and adequacy of the function.

505. A delegation noted recommendation 3 of the report regarding the conduct of joint evaluations on cross-cutting areas of contribution to the Goals (para. 57) and emphasized that it would like to receive information on the implementation of that recommendation in view of its close linkage to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to the structural challenges and interdisciplinary areas. A delegation further emphasized that the results of evaluations should be used to improve the content of Secretariat programmes.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs

506. At its 9th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([E/AC.51/2019/4](#)).

507. The representative of OIOS introduced the report, and, together with representatives of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

508. Delegations thanked the representative of OIOS for the introduction of the report and commended the Office for its work in support of multilateral disarmament. A delegation noted that, despite disagreement with some of the observations and conclusions of the evaluation in the management response to the report, the Office had accepted all of the recommendations.

509. Referring to paragraph 39 of the report, delegations expressed concern with the finding that the Office lacked sufficient mechanisms to collect outcome data and conduct self-evaluations. The delegations encouraged the Office to improve in those areas and to ensure that it was compliant with the Secretary-General’s intentions and objectives in strengthening monitoring, evaluation and accountability in the Organization.

510. A delegation noted the observation that the monitoring and evaluation budget of the Office was 0.015 per cent of its overall budget and enquired if the benchmark established by the Joint Inspection Unit for evaluation budgets allowed for flexibility in accommodating the small size of some offices.

511. A delegation enquired about the progress the Office had made in the area of change management since the issuance of the evaluation report.

Conclusions and recommendations

512. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 64 to 68 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

513. At its 7th meeting, on 6 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management ([E/AC.51/2019/5](#)).

514. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report, and representatives of OIOS, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

515. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report, its high quality and the recommendations made therein. A delegation reported finding the summary to be particularly useful. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work of the Department, noted that it had accepted the recommendations and said that they looked forward to seeing them implemented.

516. In reference to paragraph 40 of the report, several delegations welcomed the fact that the Department had not only absorbed growing demand within its declining resources, but had done so without a decline in quality. Information was sought on how budget reductions would affect the work of the Department in the future. A delegation suggested easing the burden on interpreters by replicating an established practice of another intergovernmental body, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, whereby a time limit for an intervention by a delegation was enforced while allowing delegations to submit more detailed statements for the record. That reduced the likelihood of statements being read too quickly.

517. A delegation noted that the report and the summary of the Department's performance measures were focused on quantitative metrics of the volume of services delivered and asked whether qualitative parameters would be introduced in future evaluations by OIOS. In addition, some delegations expressed interest in obtaining regular feedback from users on the quality of the work. A delegation, referring to figure X on client perceptions of the degree to which meeting room needs were met, stated that the sample size was small and asked what meeting room needs were unmet. Another delegation, noting that the compliance rate for document issuance was lower for offices away from Headquarters, asked how the Department serviced other duty stations and whether it was the case that the Department might have been designed for Headquarters and then sought to scale up its services.

518. Regarding paragraph 47 of the report, a delegation queried the use of gender and the Sustainable Development Goals as cross-cutting issues and asked whether other cross-cutting issues had been considered. Several delegations welcomed the treatment of gender as a cross-cutting issue and expressed support for the achievements of the Department on gender parity and on implementing a strong gender policy. A delegation recalled a discussion held earlier on another report before the Committee regarding a draft model code of conduct and an implementation guide to prevent sexual harassment during, or related to, United Nations events, which had been created in response to the alleged sexual harassment of interns at United Nations conferences, and stated that it would be a relevant topic for a systematic evaluation or inspection by OIOS in the future when considering conference management. Another delegation asked how and by whom investigations into alleged sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse were carried out.

519. Delegations noted the need identified in the report to improve the harmonization of business processes across the Department without calling for additional financial resources, while one delegation referred to the importance of improving business intelligence capabilities to facilitate planning for and better use of digital platforms to boost such intelligence and improve service delivery.

520. A delegation referred to the statement contained in the summary of the report that the effective management of external factors was elusive, given that resolving the most significant and persistent challenges required the guidance of Member States, and enquired whether such guidance had been sought in the appropriate context, including the programme plan for programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. Referring to paragraph 46 (a) of the report, a delegation asked what external factors affected the ability of the Department to plan.

521. A delegation, noting that the conference management activities of the regional commissions were not covered in the report, asked how the Secretary-General ensured oversight over those services. It was also stated that the Secretariat's position that conference services at ECA were not under the purview of the Department did not hold, given that the utilization rate of conference services at ECA was in fact considered by the Committee on Conferences. Another delegation recalled that the consideration of ECA by the Committee on Conferences was the result of a request of the General Assembly owing to a specific concern of the African States at a particular point in time. The delegation also recalled that the low utilization rate had in fact been caused by a methodological error and that the situation had improved significantly.

522. A delegation welcomed the Department's ongoing practice of consulting Member States and the opportunities offered to provide input on changes and innovations in its operations, especially innovations that affected the work of delegations. Emphasizing that the work of delegations depended on the predictability of the work of the Organization, a delegation suggested that that practice be adopted by other Secretariat departments and that future evaluations by OIOS take that into account.

Conclusions and recommendations

523. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 51 to 54 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.**

524. **The Committee commended the Department on its use of information technology in effectively delivering its programme of work amid growing demand for conference services.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children

525. At its 7th meeting, on 6 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children ([E/AC.51/2019/6](#)).

526. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the three offices evaluated, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

527. Expressing thanks to the representative of OIOS for the introduction of the report, delegations generally concurred with the conclusions and recommendations contained therein and expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the offices. It was emphasized that, although the offices were small in size, they had broad but distinct mandates, and delegations concurred with OIOS that all of the offices had been effective champions of their areas of work.

528. Several delegations made reference to the fifth recommendation, on the need to enhance coordination and cooperation between the offices and improve joint planning in their work. A delegation observed that, as United Nations entities, the offices would be expected to work together and coordinate, and asked why they were not doing so. Another delegation asked how the offices were currently communicating and coordinating. The view was also expressed that better results could be achieved through greater cooperation and coordination and through synergies. Another delegation added that close coordination and cooperation would maximize efficiency and facilitate greater impact in the use of scarce resources such as travel resources. It was also stressed that highlighting the consistent coordination of United Nations activities on the ground was always beneficial.

529. Several delegations noted that coordination between the offices was important, but the distinct mandate of each should always be maintained. One delegation remarked that, while useful and interesting, the report was far from perfect and that nuances in the work of the offices had not been taken into account. Nevertheless, the delegation expressed support for the recommendations and reaffirmed the problems identified in the report.

530. A delegation referred to paragraph 40 of the report, noting the need to avoid reputational risk. Specifically, there was a requirement for close exchanges on the monitoring data overseen by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The same delegation also emphasized the need for the thorough verification of monitoring data, as they had practical application in the adoption of sanctions and other actions by the Security Council. In that connection, the delegation stressed the importance of coordination between those offices for data exchange, monitoring and awareness-raising.

531. Several delegations expressed views on the communication strategies of the offices. One noted heavy reliance on traditional media and slow movement into social media. Another expressed support for the OIOS recommendation to use social media more proactively but stressed the need for strict compliance with confidentiality in sensitive cases. Some delegations cautioned against the reliance on “followers” and “likes” as stand-alone performance measures, which were not considered an accurate metric for evaluating the success of outreach efforts. A delegation stressed that outreach was not an end in itself but a means to effectively implement mandates.

532. A delegation noted the recent paradigm shift in peace and security reform and asked how that had affected the effectiveness of the work of the offices.

533. A delegation commented on the need for OIOS to consider comments from evaluated entities on its methodological approach.

Conclusions and recommendations

534. The Committee welcomed the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children.

535. The Committee noted with appreciation the advocacy efforts of the offices aimed at promoting the objectives of the respective mandates.

536. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 56 to 60 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the offices.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme

537. At its 10th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNEP ([E/AC.51/2019/7](#) and [E/AC.51/2019/7/Corr.1](#)).

538. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and representatives of OIOS, together with representatives of UNEP, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

539. Delegations expressed appreciation for the high-quality report from OIOS and expressed support for the issues raised and the recommendations contained therein. Noting that there were a number of critical recommendations for UNEP to improve its work, clarification was also sought from UNEP regarding the timelines for implementing actions in response to the recommendations of OIOS.

540. Delegations discussed the challenges of coordination between UNEP offices and accountability issues identified in the OIOS report. Referring to paragraph 33 and recommendation 2 of the report, a delegation observed that the issue of ensuring that UNEP strategic priorities informed resource allocation decisions had come up in the past and was being raised again in the report before the Committee. The delegation sought explanations as to why it had been difficult for UNEP to clarify roles and responsibilities between subprogrammes, divisions and regional offices and what steps had been taken to achieve that end. Another delegation referred to paragraph 88 (g) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want” (General Assembly resolution [66/288](#), annex), in which it was indicated that headquarters functions should be progressively consolidated in Nairobi, which should help to increase coordination between the various offices of UNEP and enhance accountability. Another delegation, referring to paragraphs 49 (c) and 51 of the report, sought clarification regarding what UNEP would do to strengthen accountability and cut down on the duplication of effort between offices, including addressing the need for a unified project management system. The delegation also enquired as to how that would be applied in the context of the reform agenda of the Secretary-General and the reform of the resident coordinator system.

541. A delegation, referring to paragraph 6 and recommendation 3 of the OIOS report, was of the view that, since UNEP was custodian or co-custodian of the largest number of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the rest of the United Nations might be able to learn from the fundraising actions undertaken by UNEP in response to the recommendation on resource mobilization and partnerships. Another delegation

observed that the Committee was the appropriate forum in which to discuss mandate implementation, but not to discuss resources.

542. A delegation noted with concern that, in its report, OIOS found that policies had been unevenly applied across UNEP, and with little guidance or training, and enquired as to how UNEP was addressing that issue.

Conclusions and recommendations

543. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraph 72 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs

544. At its 11th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs ([E/AC.51/2019/9](#)).

545. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

546. Expressing appreciation for the report, delegations commended the Office of Legal Affairs on its useful advice to the Organization, noting that the report portrayed the relevance of the Office in a positive light and contained the finding that the Office was highly responsive to requests and was achieving significant outcomes. One delegation welcomed the Office's acceptance of all recommendations and indicated that it looked forward to the Office addressing the factors identified in the evaluation as impediments to optimal results, in particular those factors related to the absence of an effective dissemination platform. It was noted that the evaluation had identified gaps in the Office's websites, and details were requested about the steps being taken to remedy the situation.

547. Delegations welcomed the effort by the Office to support the dissemination of international law through the lectures of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law and noted that many scholars of international law in developing countries were reading and listening to the lectures available in that library. A delegation extended an invitation to support the Office in recording lectures in Arabic by scholars in the delegation's country.

548. Referring to paragraphs 53 to 58 of the report, a delegation commented on the evaluation finding that the information management methods and information technology of the Office were inefficient. The delegation enquired about the role of the Office of Information and Communications Technology in helping the Office of Legal Affairs to select case management software described as clunky and slow, as well as other factors that might have led the Office of Legal Affairs to rely on inadequate software for a long time.

549. Referring to paragraph 73, on the impact of the United Nations reform agenda on the Office, questions were raised about the challenges posed for the Office by the reform agenda in general and by the introduction of the resident coordinator system to the Secretariat, and about whether a comprehensive assessment had been performed in that regard.

550. With regard to recommendation 1, on the need for the Office to develop and implement a technical cooperation strategy covering relevant areas of international law but with particular emphasis on international trade activities, information was sought as to the reason for that emphasis. Referring to paragraph 66, which indicated that the efforts of the International Trade Law Division in providing technical assistance on adopting model laws and legislative guidelines had been concentrated primarily in Asia, information was requested on the work carried out to provide capacity development support in international trade law to regions beyond Asia.

551. Referring to recommendation 7, on the need to fill vacancies quickly by selecting candidates from rosters and to build rosters of attorneys and staff in all thematic areas by identifying qualified candidates, a delegation asked whether geographical representation was considered in the Office's hiring decisions and whether it had been considered in the formulation of the recommendation. Another delegation enquired about possible assistance for underrepresented countries and about ways in which it could assist the Office in remedying such underrepresentation. In that connection, it was suggested that Junior Professional Officer programmes might offer an opportunity for young candidates from those countries. Referring to paragraph 49, a delegation asked about the reasons for the high vacancy rate of 9 per cent in the Office.

552. A delegation expressed appreciation for a chart developed by OIOS that showed the functional areas of the Office that had been included in annex II to the report. The delegation stated that such charts would be useful in the future for helping Committee members to better understand the functions of the departments and offices being evaluated.

Conclusions and recommendations

553. **The Committee expressed appreciation to OIOS for its report on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs and recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report.**

554. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 75 to 78, 80 and 81 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office and that the Assembly consider the recommendations contained in paragraph 79 thereof.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

555. At its 18th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNHCR ([E/AC.51/2019/8](#)).

556. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UNHCR, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

557. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and support for the issues raised and the recommendations made therein.

558. A delegation highlighted the important work performed by UNHCR, which operated in increasingly complex environments and also faced funding challenges. Delegations welcomed the fact that UNHCR had accepted all of the recommendations made, with one noting that the recommendations would improve refugees' access to

health care and integration into national health systems, in addition to the monitoring of health programmes.

559. Referring to the summary and to figure VII, entitled “Staff perceptions of the performance of the Office in public health outcomes, 2014–2018 (157 staff)”, one delegation requested that the words “reproductive health services” be deleted, while several others, expressing support for the work of UNHCR on reproductive health, requested that the words be retained.

560. A delegation underlined the importance of primary health-care responsibilities being part of national health systems.

Conclusions and recommendations

561. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 65 to 70 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Public Information

562. At its 19th meeting, on 14 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Public Information ([E/AC.51/2019/2](#)).

563. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Department of Global Communications (formerly the Department of Public Information), responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

564. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report, noted that the Department had accepted all recommendations and said that they looked forward to seeing the results of their implementation in due course.

565. A delegation requested further information regarding the silos and overlap that had been highlighted in the report, noting the overlap between the services and documents provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, such as through the e-deleGATE portal, and those provided by the Department of Global Communications. A delegation noted that if, for example, a conference were being held at the United Nations, it would be beneficial for delegations to have a central repository of information.

566. Clarification was sought as to whether OIOS had considered the ongoing reform of the Department, if indeed the reform plans had been known at the time of the evaluation, with the delegation noting the need for an analysis of the effects of that transformation on the staffing and costs of the Department, in particular the impact on multilingualism.

567. A delegation emphasized that, when preparing the report, OIOS should have paid attention to the following aspects: (a) the lack of methodology to assess the reform of the Department as a factor that had an impact on its work throughout the review period; (b) the lack of accountability for violations of the principles of multilingualism, in particular the cancellation of metadata input in webcasting; and (c) shortcomings in the assessment criteria for quantitative indicators of work in United Nations media resources that were not divided into language segments.

568. Several delegations expressed support for multilingualism and reiterated that all documents and online resources should be available in all official languages of the United Nations. Referring to figure VI of the report, entitled “Upward trend in visits to www.un.org and United Nations News, 2015–2017”, a delegation encouraged the Department to provide statistics on website visits disaggregated by official language, while another suggested that increases in web traffic to English-language pages might be attributable primarily to the greater amount of information being available in that language. A delegation expressed concern that resources for multilingualism had been cut, while another suggested that the apparent greater demand for English-language publications might be due to the fact that some documents were available only in English. In that regard, the delegation stressed that multilingualism ought to be considered in future evaluations.

569. A delegation voiced support for the publication of documents in the six official languages, when necessary, and suggested analysing the number of documents being made available in those languages to ensure that resources were not being directed towards services that were not needed.

570. A delegation inquired about the current status of the relationship of the United Nations information centres with resident coordinator offices following the development reform, asking how the leadership of the centres had been affected as a result and what improvements had been made in that regard. A delegation remarked that much work was being performed by the centres and agreed with the OIOS comment that the Department was not strategically optimizing their use.

571. Referring to paragraph 36 of the report, a delegation drew attention to the Department’s frequent leadership changes and the resulting effect on its strategic direction, in particular during times of crisis.

Conclusions and recommendations

572. **The Committee stressed the importance of Department-wide, forward-looking strategic direction to ensure coherent messaging within and across channels and products and eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort.**

573. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 70 to 73 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Public Information.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management

574. At its 22nd meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management ([E/AC.51/2019/3](#)).

575. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report, and representatives of OIOS and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

576. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report, noting its value and the importance of its subject. They also conveyed their support for the issues raised and recommendations made and their appreciation that those recommendations had been accepted.

577. Several delegations noted with concern the serious deficiencies in human resources management that had been highlighted in the report. One delegation noted that the recommendations seemed to be quite technical, and it concurred with the practical approach taken by OIOS. However, the delegation cautioned against settling on the notion that the recommendations would be a “panacea” for resolving the larger problem faced by the Organization, particularly against the backdrop of the inconclusive discussions in the Fifth Committee during the main part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the agenda item on human resources management. Another delegation commented that the recommendations were constructive and that it looked forward to their implementation. It was also stated that the implementation of the recommendations should result in the human resources paradigm shift sought by the Secretary-General in the context of his reform agenda.

578. Regarding extrabudgetary resources for post and non-post requirements, a delegation asked how those resources had been used in the work of the Office. Noting the serious deficiencies highlighted in paragraphs 40 and 45 of the report, the delegation also sought clarification regarding recruitment and career development and whether OIOS had included in its evaluation a consideration of how interlinked components were tied to the Secretary-General’s reform agenda.

579. Delegations asked why the evaluation had not included an assessment of the managed mobility policy, and clarification was sought regarding whether the policy remained in place or was under review and subject to replacement.

580. Several delegations stated that Article 101 of the Charter was the primary foundation for the recruitment of staff and should be considered to the basis of the other recruitment principles listed in paragraph 21 of the report. A delegation emphasized that the principle of merit was missing from the criteria set out in that paragraph. The delegation was of the view that, while there were difficulties in reconciling merit-based recruitment with those criteria, the main criterion was merit. Citing the example of recruitment in the foreign service, the delegation explained that merit conflicted with gender parity and geographical distribution in some cases, as cultural concerns meant that women tended to choose stability rather than life in the foreign service, where extensive travel was required. In response, a delegation emphasized that the discussions on the empowerment of women encompassed more than simply cultural concerns; the problem ran deeper, and included concern over access to education for women and girls. In that connection, the delegation expressed the view that, despite the criteria listed in paragraph 21, in particular equitable geographical distribution, the report did not reflect an examination of how that aspect of workforce-planning was being implemented, and the delegation sought further information on the Office’s efforts in connection with those issues. Another delegation stated that geographical distribution and gender parity did not need to compete with merit when recruiting the best candidates. Delegations agreed that more needed to be done to move away from the stereotypical methodology. However, one urged caution regarding the metrics used to determine merit and excellence because the fact that the best universities were in the Western world gave a net advantage to some countries. The delegation therefore underscored the need to consider geographical representation, since not all talented candidates had the same educational opportunities to excel. Another delegation sought clarification of the steps being taken to attract more female candidates from developing countries.

581. Referring to paragraph 37 of the report, a delegation noted with concern that in an evaluation of the Office conducted in 2008, OIOS had highlighted inefficiencies, and stated that the lack of clarity on the delegation of authority remained an unresolved concern 10 years later. Delegations questioned the evaluation finding that continuous reform and shifting priorities had changed the focus of the Office and stretched its capacity to provide strategic leadership and support to the Organization

in human resources management. They also queried the source of the continual reform noted in the report.

582. Several delegations asked how the most recent organizational reforms, in particular management reform, had been considered in the OIOS evaluation, and others questioned whether those reforms had contributed to improvements in human resources management. In that regard, a delegation stressed the importance of ensuring adequate follow-up on the recommendations and related changes in connection with the paradigm shift. Concern was also raised about whether continuous reforms had affected programme delivery.

583. Some delegations expressed concern about the low promotion rate and lack of career-planning services for staff recruited through the young professionals programme. Several also expressed concern about the lengthy recruitment timelines, as well as inefficiencies in the delegation of authority. One delegation noted the contradictory challenges of the need for the Organization, on the one hand, to meet its contractual obligations with regard to its staff and to reorient the current workforce to meet future organizational needs, goals and objectives, as provided in legislative mandates, while on the other hand focusing more on compliance than results in human resources policies. With reference to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report, the delegation asked whether OIOS had any recommendations on how to resolve the conundrum described therein on the disproportionate focus of clients and staff on compliance rather than results, at the expense of operational needs. On a related note, the delegation sought clarification as to how those inefficiencies, which hampered mandate delivery, as well as the goals of geographical distribution at various levels and gender parity, would be taken into account in the reorientation and renewal of the workforce.

Conclusions and recommendations

584. **The Committee welcomed the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management.**

585. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 62 to 68 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office.**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

586. The Committee resumed its consideration of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of OHCHR ([E/AC.51/2017/9](#)), the consideration of which had been deferred from the fifty-seventh session of the Committee (see [A/72/16](#)).

Discussion

587. The Committee's discussion on the report during its fifty-seventh session, is set out in its report ([A/72/16](#), sect. II.B.6).

Conclusions and recommendations

588. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

Chapter III

Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2018

589. At its 4th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2018 (E/2019/10).

590. The Secretary of CEB and Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

591. Delegations welcomed the annual overview report for 2018 and expressed appreciation for its clarity and the wide coverage of the programmatic and management issues taken up by CEB and its machinery. The importance of continuing to ensure that the Board was guided by intergovernmental mandates and responded to the priorities of Member States was stressed. However, a delegation stated that the report hopped from topic to topic, suggesting that the Board had not found its niche. Another delegation recalled that the role of CEB was to ensure system-wide coordination in order to increase the effectiveness and performance of the United Nations system in line with its mandates.

592. Support was expressed for the Board's efforts to promote and enhance internal coordination and cooperation and to strengthen the coherence of United Nations system activities in both the programmatic and management domains. It was recognized as essential that United Nations system entities work together on cross-cutting issues and ensure that efficiency was improved. A delegation observed that the growing importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was appropriately reflected in the report. In particular, the actions of the Board were focused on avoiding duplication and optimizing the use of resources in the administration of United Nations system organizations in the context of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. CEB continued to be seen as a driver of multilateralism, providing key support to Member States and improving the administrative and management functions of the United Nations system.

593. Delegations underscored the importance of the Board's efforts to continue to promote transparency and accountability. A delegation stated that more could be done in that regard and encouraged CEB to engage in more substantive consultations with Member States. The improvement of the data management platform supporting the collection of human resources, financial and budgetary data, as well as the initiative to provide more extensive, disaggregated and system-wide data that were compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals, were recognized as important contributions to promoting transparency.

594. It was noted that the report provided clarity regarding the functions and activities that remained within the Board's purview following the decision of the Secretary-General in 2017, as part of his effort to reform the United Nations development system, to separate the United Nations Development Group from CEB and reconstitute it as the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, while CEB continued to pursue system-wide policy coherence and coordination through its High-level Committee on Programmes and High-level Committee on Management. Recalling that decision, a delegation asked how information on the work of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group would be reported. Clarity was also sought

on what the reforms being undertaken by the Secretary-General meant for CEB, in particular in terms of how it currently functioned.

595. Appreciation was expressed to the Board for its efforts in 2018 to consider global trends and new challenges related to the practical issues faced by countries, in particular the role of science, technology and innovation, food issues, the future of work and the prospects for youth in that context, and the global drug problem.

596. Regarding specific topics taken up by CEB, some delegations broadly commended the examination of technological innovation and the impact of the fourth industrial revolution on sustainable development. It was stressed that the existing digital divide must not be allowed to widen. It was seen as important for CEB to reflect on technological trends and to channel them into development gains for Member States in many areas, including work, education, food and youth engagement. A delegation observed that the effort was very closely aligned with the vision of the country's leadership to transform the national economy, moving from being based on natural resources to being focused on knowledge, and in that regard said that it looked forward to the support of United Nations country teams in harnessing technology to ensure that the country would not be left behind in the digital economy.

597. Both the strategic approach and road map to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity to address the opportunities and risks posed by artificial intelligence and the system-wide strategy on the future of work were highlighted as particularly important deliverables. An update on the results of the consideration in 2019 by the High-level Committee on Programmes of both initiatives was requested, along with any specific plans to share the final documents with Member States. The examination of the future of work, in particular, was seen to be of universal interest and important to all Governments, and it was suggested that the results of the work undertaken in that regard be disseminated broadly.

598. Stating that the engagement of the United Nations system with the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, approved in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and incorporated into the 2030 Agenda, was paramount, a delegation asked how the Board's work on scientific and technological innovation was contributing to the Mechanism, as well as to the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. Clarification was also sought regarding which entities participated in the United Nations Innovation Network and on how the Network could help countries to benefit from technological innovation. Furthermore, there was a request for further information on the interplay between the impact of technology on the labour market and the demographic dividend promised for the youth population in Africa.

599. Several initiatives undertaken through the High-level Committee on Management were acknowledged by delegations. Several delegations welcomed the work of the CEB task force on addressing sexual harassment within the organizations of the United Nations system and saw value in coordinating efforts across the system on that issue. Some delegations welcomed the priority accorded by CEB to the problem of sexual harassment and its commitment to a zero-tolerance approach. A delegation stressed that continued engagement across the system was essential. While stating that sexual harassment was unacceptable and that the Secretary-General was supported by Member States in his determination to root it out, one delegation expressed concern that some entities were using the rationale of rooting out sexual harassment to expand their mandate or the number of staff dealing with that issue.

600. The specific efforts of the CEB task force and its accomplishments, such as a uniform definition of sexual harassment, common principles for a harmonized sexual harassment policy and a system-wide sexual harassment screening database, were

commended by some delegations. One stressed the importance of taking into consideration the comments provided by Member States on the draft model code of conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at United Nations system events and expressed concern that written comments provided by that delegation's Government had been ignored. Some delegations asked for additional information on the work of the task force, enquired about the main lessons learned from the work carried out in 2018 and requested further details on efforts to strengthen investigative capacity and improve investigations of sexual harassment.

601. Efforts to foster multilingualism throughout the United Nations system were widely welcomed. It was seen as a very important area of work to meet the needs of Member States. Specific steps, such as the dedicated web page, the collaborative platform and the community of practice on multilingualism, demonstrated the engagement of CEB in that regard, and delegations said that they looked forward to the outcome of those efforts.

602. With respect to collaboration on procurement, a question was raised on the volume of transactions by vendors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and whether there was a means to ensure that such vendors were not only registered on the United Nations Global Marketplace vendor roster but also had the capacity to compete effectively and gain a share of the market. Another delegation reiterated the importance of increasing the participation of developing country vendors. It was asked whether there were plans to pursue activities related to procurement that were not enshrined in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

603. A delegation stressed the importance of intergovernmental consensus in guiding the work of the United Nations system, including the work of the High-level Committee on Management, on the duty of care for United Nations personnel. The subject had been discussed in the context of protecting humanitarian personnel, and to present it as having been endorsed by the United Nations was inaccurate. That delegation's Government could therefore not support its inclusion as an initiative with wide intergovernmental support. The same delegation expressed doubt as to whether the statement of mutual recognition of operational policies and procedures, which had been pursued in response to General Assembly resolution [71/243](#), was in fact underpinned by a decision of Member States.

604. In the context of the activities of the project on the United Nations semantic interoperability framework for normative and parliamentary documents, a delegation asked about the joint effort to develop common digital identifiers for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusions and recommendations

605. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2018.

606. The Committee expressed support for the ongoing work of CEB, within existing mandates, on the harmonization and simplification of business practices aimed at increasing the coherence, coordination, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to remind the executive heads of the participating organizations of the need to further align the measures taken by the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework.

607. The Committee stressed the importance of the organizations of the United Nations system working to enhance accountability, within their respective mandates and governance structures, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to encourage them to continue to coordinate their work to the extent possible in order to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

608. The Committee emphasized that results-based management should be focused on outcomes achieved, as opposed to outputs, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to encourage the executive heads of United Nations organizations to report systematically on specific outcomes achieved, in particular in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

609. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of CEB to address sexual harassment, including through the establishment of a task force, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to urge all participating organizations to take further steps to implement a zero-tolerance policy towards the problem.

610. The Committee welcomed the contributions of CEB in 2018 to the enhancement of United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination in policy, operational and management matters, thereby, *inter alia*, deepening system-wide understanding of the implications of technological innovation, including for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering the harmonization and mutual recognition of business practices, promoting enhanced collaboration on procurement and combating sexual harassment.

611. The Committee also expressed support for the work of CEB aimed at ensuring a coherent United Nations system-wide approach to supporting Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

612. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to encourage the support of the United Nations system for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism through active engagement with the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to further enhancing the establishment of programmes on technology facilitation for the promotion of the Goals by the entities of the United Nations system.

B. United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Introduction

613. At its 21st meeting, on 17 June, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) ([E/AC.51/2019/10](#)).

614. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa introduced the report and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

615. Delegations expressed appreciation to the Special Adviser on Africa for the presentation of the report and its quality and comprehensive nature. Delegations also appreciated the efforts by the African Union and its initiatives, such as NEPAD and

Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and reiterated their commitment to and support for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa.

616. A delegation encouraged the United Nations system to continue to provide the African Union with any assistance necessary in the process of transitioning from the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to the African Union Development Agency, in accordance with the decision taken by the African Union at its thirty-first summit, held in Nouakchott from 25 June to 2 July 2018. At the same time, the delegation stressed that timely practical support from African countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should contribute to their transformation into an engine of global social and economic growth. In that regard, the delegation emphasized the importance of paying attention to the development of industrial production and transport infrastructure in Africa, as well as strengthening its trade potential and improving health and agrifood systems.

617. Appreciation was expressed for United Nations commitments and support for the development of Africa, as well as for the achievements made in the following areas: infrastructure development; human capital development; governance, peace and security; agriculture and agroprocessing; industry, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; science and technology; and advocacy and outreach programmes. In particular, support was welcomed for the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025), as well as joint measures to implement the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

618. A delegation highlighted the continuous bilateral and multilateral support it provided to African Member States, notably on food assistance, training and capacity-building, health, agriculture, industrialization, and sustainable development. The same delegation noted that the first summit between Africa and the Russian Federation was scheduled to be held in October 2019.

619. While welcoming the report and wishing that it continued to include information on United Nations system support to NEPAD and the African Union, a delegation expressed the view that future reports should include more information on substantive activities and projects rather than describing minor activities that should not be included.

620. A request for clarification was made with regard to the information contained in paragraph 66 of the report of the Secretary-General that the Department of Global Communications continued to raise global awareness of and support for NEPAD through an awareness campaign on African development issues, while the programme plan of the proposed programme budget for 2020 ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)), in paragraph 11.9, described how the Department would develop global communication strategies on priority issues affecting Africa, which seemed to imply that, at present, no such campaign existed. Furthermore, clarification was sought regarding the reference made in paragraph 103 of the report on the lack of an effective monitoring and evaluation framework as a challenge to the implementation of the workplans of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, including the measures planned to address the matter. Information was also sought on the Regional Coordination Mechanism, as well as on the interaction between the United Nations development system reform and the new regional coordination mechanism, as described in paragraph 11.7.

621. A delegation enquired as to whether any changes had been made to the mandate and objectives of the Office and how the Office had engaged with the United Nations system in the preparation of the report in view of the whole-of-system approach in support of NEPAD.

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Committee

622. In accordance with paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution [1979/41](#) and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [34/50](#), the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its sixtieth session, together with the required documentation.

623. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process it on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

624. The draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the current session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for 2021 (in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#));

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2021: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (part II; in fascicle form) (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [58/269](#), [59/275](#), [62/224](#) and [72/266 A](#))

- (b) Evaluation:

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session on the evaluation of the

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session on the evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session on the evaluation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-seventh session on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions (General Assembly resolution [72/9](#))

4. Coordination questions:

- (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2019 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))

- (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution [59/275](#))

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixtieth session.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its fifty-ninth session

E/AC.51/2019/1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/AC.51/2019/L.1/Rev.1	Status of documentation
E/AC.51/2019/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit
A/74/6 (Plan outline)	Proposed programme budget for 2020: plan outline (part I)
	Proposed programme budget for 2020: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (General Assembly resolution 72/266 A) (part II):
A/74/6 (Sect. 2)	Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/74/6 (Sect. 3)	Programme 2, Political affairs
A/74/6 (Sect. 4)	Programme 3, Disarmament
A/74/6 (Sect. 5)	Programme 4, Peacekeeping operations
A/74/6 (Sect. 6)	Programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space
A/74/6 (Sect. 8) and A/74/6 (Sect. 8)/Corr.1	Programme 6, Legal affairs
A/74/6 (Sect. 9)	Programme 7, Economic and social affairs
A/74/6 (Sect. 10)	Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/74/6 (Sect. 11)	Programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/74/6 (Sect. 12)	Programme 10, Trade and development
A/74/6 (Sect. 13)	Programme 10, subprogramme 6, International Trade Centre
A/74/6 (Sect. 14)	Programme 11, Environment
A/74/6 (Sect. 15)	Programme 12, Human settlements
A/74/6 (Sect. 16)	Programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/74/6 (Sect. 17)	Programme 14, Gender equality and the empowerment of women
A/74/6 (Sect. 18)	Programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa
A/74/6 (Sect. 19)	Programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/74/6 (Sect. 20)	Programme 17, Economic development in Europe
A/74/6 (Sect. 21)	Programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/74/6 (Sect. 22)	Programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia

A/74/6 (Sect. 24)	Programme 20, Human rights
A/74/6 (Sect. 25)	Programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
A/74/6 (Sect. 26)	Programme 22, Palestine refugees
A/74/6 (Sect. 27)	Programme 23, Humanitarian assistance
A/74/6 (Sect. 28)	Programme 24, Global communications
A/74/6 (Sect. 29)	Programme 25, Management and support services
A/74/6 (Sect. 29A)	Programme 25, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
A/74/6 (Sect. 29B)	Programme 25, Department of Operational Support
A/74/6 (Sect. 29C)	Programme 25, Office of Information and Communications Technology
A/74/6 (Sect. 29E)	Programme 25, Administration, Geneva
A/74/6 (Sect. 29F)	Programme 25, Administration, Vienna
A/74/6 (Sect. 29G)	Programme 25, Administration, Nairobi
A/74/6 (Sect. 30)	Programme 26, Internal oversight
A/74/6 (Sect. 31)	Programme 27, Jointly financed activities
A/74/6 (Sect. 34)	Programme 28, Safety and security
A/71/6/Rev.1	Biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019
A/73/400, sect. II.C	Revised biennial programme plan for programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, for the period 2018–2019
E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2020: review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
A/74/67 and A/74/67/Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives
E/AC.51/2019/6	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2019/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Public Information (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2019/5	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

E/AC.51/2019/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2019/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2019/8	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2019/9	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2019/7 and E/AC.51/2019/7/Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (General Assembly resolution 72/9)
E/AC.51/2017/9	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
E/2019/10	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2018 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2019/10	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 60/257)
E/AC.51/2019/L.3	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2019/L.4 and Add.1–41	Draft report of the Committee

